REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

PROVINCE OF ASSAM

FOR THE

YEAR 1876-77.

SHILLONG:

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PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

1. The chief event during the year of public importance to India at large, the assumption by Her Majesty the Queen of the title of Empress of India, demands the foremost place of notice in the administrative annals.

The occasion was celebrated with due ceremony, accompanied by public rejoicings, in each station in the Province, and the opportunity was taken of presenting such persons as had distinguished themselves by loyalty or good services, rendered to the public or the State, with certificates of honour, in token of recognition of those services by their sovereign.

Seasons and harvests.

2. The year under report presents no special features from an agricultural point of view. The weather was, on the whole, favourable, and, though the rains were late in some parts of the Province, the rainfall was an average one. The outturn of the principal crop, rice, was fair, and that of the other crops larger, perhaps, than usual.

Condition of the people.

3. The condition of the people throughout the year was fairly prosperous; prices ruled high, but nowhere was there any distress, and there were no special causes at work tending to lower the standard of comfort among the general population.

Health of the people.

4. Malarious fevers were, as usual, prevalent during the year, and cholera was not absent, although there were, happily, no bad outbreaks of that disease. In Sylhet, there was an outbreak of fever of a

very fatal type. The vital statistics collected being utterly untrustworthy, no deductions can be drawn from them as to the general health of the people. The year, however, is generally stated to have been somewhat more unhealthy than that which preceded it.

The details of administration given at length in the body of the report will now be briefly summarized.

Changes in administration.

5. The only change to be noted during the year in the general powers of the Administration was the investiture of the Chief Commissioner with powers under Act VII. of 1870 (the Court-fees Act). Under the head of political changes may be included the notification of the Inner Line in the district of Sibságar, and the demarcation of the Inner Line in the district of Lakhimpur. A form of pass under Regulation V. of 1873 was framed during the year, and its general adoption has been ordered. The administrative changes to be recorded were as follows:—

The Sunámganj sub-division, in Sylhet, was opened during the year, and steps were taken with a view to ensure the early opening of the remaining sub-divisions projected for that district. The local limits of the Sylhet munsiffis were re-adjusted, and the jurisdiction of the Small Cause Court in that district was finally determined. The thannah divisions in the district of Cachar were also re-arranged during the year.

In connection with the revision of boundaries, the work carried out during the year consisted of the definition of the boundary between the district of Cachar and the district of the Khási and Jaintiá Hills, the prosecution of the demarcation of the Gáro Hills and Maimensingh, and Gáro Hills and Khási Hills boundaries, and the completion of the survey of the boundary between the district of Kámrúp and the district of the Khási and Jaintiá Hills, and its permanent definition.

Relations with tributary States and frontier affairs.

6. The principal event of the year in connection with the dependent State of Manipur was the investigation by an officer of the Assam commission, under the orders of the Government of India, into certain charges made against the Political Agent, Dr. Brown, by the Durbar. The conduct of the Durbar in this matter was considered most unsatisfactory.

The question of the acquisition by the Maharajah of land in British territory was raised during the year, and it was decided, with the approbation of the Government of India, that any further acquisition by him of land within our districts should be prohibited.

Two political detenus, Gokul Singh and Doyabunda Singh, were released during the year and permitted to return to Manipur.

With the exception of the Angami Nágas and the Abors, the various frontier tribes with whom we have political relations gave no cause for disquiet during the year under review. On the contrary, the friendly intercourse with the hillmen at the large annual fairs has been productive of excellent results, and, with the exceptions above noted, their attitude has been eminently pacific.

The turbulence and ferocity which characterise the principal villages of the Angami Nágas were manifested again this year in frequent outrages on their weaker neighbours; and besides raiding on villages in Manipur territory they ventured ultimately to attack a village in British territory. In February, 1877, a band of Nága warriors from the powerful village of Mozema passed across the border into North Cachar, and attacked the British-Nága village of Gumaigáju in retaliation for an old grudge, killing some of the inhabitants, and carrying off some booty.

The necessity for the repression of outrages upon British subjects such as that described being imperative, the Government of India have sanctioned a punitive expedition during the cold weather of 1877-78 against the offending communities.

The Abors committed no overt act of hostility; but, were it not for the fact that the survey party, which operated in the lower range of hills north of the Brahmaputra, was protected by a strong military escort, they would probably have opposed its advance. Their attitude at present is unsatisfactory, and they threaten to intercept the communications of the friendly Mishmis with the plains.

Surveys.

7. Parties of the Topographical, Trigonometrical, and Revenue Surveys were at work in the Province during the year, and a survey of the Dikhu Valley was undertaken, with a view to test the cost

Police.

11. The details embodied in the report show that the working of the police during the year was fairly satisfactory. The conduct of the men was, on the whole, fair, and no serious charges were preferred against the force. Particular attention was paid to drill during the year, more especially in the case of the frontier police. Measures were introduced with a view to increase the efficiency of the village and river police in Sylhet. A slight addition was made to the total number of the municipal police during the year.

A considerable increase of crime reported as true by the police above the figures for 1875 is exhibited by the returns for the year under review. It is not easy to determine whether this increase indicates an actual increase in crime, or whether it is the result of increased exertions on the part of the police.

The result of the cases reported true by the police was a little better than in the previous year. Crime in the hill districts would appear to be on the increase. As the administration of these tracts improves, an increase in reported crime is only to be expected.

Prisons.

12. There is little to record with reference to jail management during the year. The buildings remained much in the same state as in previous years. The required improvements can only be gradually effected as funds are available for the purpose. Both the daily average number of prisoners and the gross prison population were larger in the year under review than in the preceding year. There were few escapes from the jails during the year, and jail discipline appears to have been fairly maintained.

The average cost per head of each prisoner was somewhat less in 1876 than in 1875.

The average death-rate during the year was higher than in the previous year, the season generally having been, as already remarked, a rather more unhealthy one.

The sanitary condition of the jails was generally good, and their internal management satisfactory.

Criminal justice.

13. As compared with the year 1875, there was a decrease in the number of offences reported, and an increase in the number of persons brought to trial, during the year under review. The percentage of convictions was higher, and the percentage of acquittals lower, in the latter than in the former year. The decrease in the number of offences reported has been attributed to the generally good outturn of the crops during the year. The results, as compared with those shown by the figures for the previous year, are fairly satisfactory. Heinous offences formed a very small percentage of the total number of offences committed, and the number of persons committed to the Court of Sessions was small. The result of cases committed to the Court of Sessions was, however, very unsatisfactory. There was a slight increase in the number of cases in which whipping was awarded as a punishment, but the percentage of such cases on the total number of persons punished is still very low. The unpaid magistracy continues to perform much useful work.

Civil justice.

14. There was a decrease in civil business, as compared with 1875, the number of original suits instituted being 19,779 against 20,811 in the preceding year. The bulk of the decrease occurred in Sylhet, and is attributable partly to the short harvest in that district, and partly, perhaps, to the changes in the location of the munsiffs' courts, consequent on the opening of the new sub-divisions. The number of cases disposed of during the year was 19,839, as compared with 21,311 disposed of in 1875, and the total value of the cases decided was Rs. 22,70,269, against Rs. 22,95,168 in the preceding year. The greater portion of the suits instituted were for small amounts. There was a decrease in the number of rent suits, and a slight increase in the number of cases of the Small Cause Court class. No other points call for notice here.

Registration.

15. There was an increase in the work of the Registration Department during the year under review, 9,004 documents having been presented for registration, as compared with 8,356 documents presented for registration in the previous year. The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 15,202-5-9, against Rs. 14,140-5-3 in 1875-76. At the same time, there was a decrease in expenditure of Rs. 1,272-9-0. These results are certainly satisfactory. The

returns show a very marked increase in the number of optional registrations effected, as compared with the preceding year. No addition was made during the year to the existing number of registration offices, and the Chief Commissioner cannot look forward to an early extension of the rural sub-registry system.

Municipalities.

16. No addition was made during the year under report to the number of municipal institutions already existing. There is not much to note regarding the working of the municipalities. Their receipts and expenditure, respectively, were larger during 1876-77 than during 1875-76, and though no works of any extent were executed, still the funds at the disposal of the several municipal committees were, on the whole, expended with judgment.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

17. Experiments in agriculture and horticulture at the Shillong Model Farm were very much restricted during the period under review, in consequence of its financial ill-success, and there is little of interest to record in connection with it, with the exception of the experiment in growing wheat.

Forests.

18. Much real advance has been made by the Forest Department in this Province during the year under report. An area of 877 square miles has been added to the reserved forests, thereby securing some very valuable forest tracts from certain destruction. Demarcation work was pushed on actively during the year, and the measures taken to protect the forests from fire were successful. Revised rules were introduced during the year, which it is hoped will have the effect of still further ensuring the protection of the forest tracts. Some measures for the conservancy of the valuable forests in the Khási Hills were also inaugurated. The receipts of the department during the period under report were Rs. 81,568, as compared with Rs. 1,07,301 in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 25,733. This decrease is, however, only apparent, and is attributable to a transfer of the revenue derived from "Elephant-catching" and "Soom Forests" from the head "Forest Revenue" to the head "Miscellaneous Land Revenue." The expenditure during 1876-77 amounted to Rs. 89,919-11-9, against Rs. 61,883-11-8 in 1875-76.

The financial results, as exhibited by the above figures, cannot be called satisfactory, but it is obvious that the Forest Department in Assam must necessarily be for some time to come a deficit department. Seeing that the principal work of the newly-constituted department has been to take under its protection and endeavour to resuscitate forest tracts long exposed to reckless and wanton destruction, and to preserve tracts of valuable forest where a demand has not yet arisen, it is only to be expected that expenditure should for some time exceed income. The addition of fresh reserves must also necessarily entail at the outset additional charges not covered by increased production. The expenditure may, however, be safely looked upon as an investment that will produce large future profit.

Trade.

19. Arrangements were made for the first time during the year under review to register the trade between this Province and frontier States. Owing to unavoidable delay, however, operations did not commence till late in the year, and statistics for the whole year are, therefore, not available. Instructions have been issued, which it is hoped will have the effect of rendering the returns of trade more valuable than the fragmentary statistics which have been compiled can be said to be.

Public Works.

20. The final grant to the Public Works Department for the year amounted to Rs. 8,69,087, and the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 8,14,195, leaving a surplus of Rs. 54,892, whereas in the two previous years there had been a deficit. The department, as will be seen from the details given in the body of the report, displayed much activity during the year, and can show a really good outturn of work. Among the most useful of the projects undertaken or continued by the department during the year may be enumerated the construction of telegraph-offices in connection with the extension of the line of telegraph to Upper Assam, the commencement of important alterations in, and additions to, the Sylhet Jail, the prosecution of the most important road in the Province, the Assam Trunk Road, and the opening for traffic of the Shillong Cart-road.

General revenue.

21. The net surplus revenue of the Province from Imperial and Provincial Services, and Local and Municipal Funds, during

1876-77 was Rs. 20,44,477, against Rs. 18,81,711 in 1875-76. The aggregate net income from all the above sources in 1875-76 amounted to Rs. 67,86,165, and the expenditure to Rs. 49,04,394. In the present year the net income was less, amounting to Rs. 66,60,900, but the expenditure was reduced in greater proportion, being Rs. 46,16,423. The falling off in aggregate income is, however, only apparent; there has been no diminution in the resources of the Province. Imperial revenue, on the contrary, shows a slight increase. The decrease is due to the income of the preceding year having been swelled by special additions, Rs. 1,00,329 having been specially granted in that year to Provincial Services, and Rs. 42,694 having been credited from the Bengal Government to Local Funds as balances of old accounts.

Imperial revenue and finance.

22. The total gross receipts under the several heads of Imperial civil revenue in 1876-77 were Rs. 55,86,763, as compared with Rs. 56,10,094 in the preceding year, showing a net decrease of Rs. 23,331. The total civil expenditure during the year under review amounted to Rs. 36,43,141, against Rs. 36,39,963 in 1875-76, showing a net increase of Rs. 3,178. The decrease in the receipts was chiefly under the heads "Land Revenue" and "Stamps." The causes of this decrease (apparent only in the case of land revenue) will be found explained in detail in the body of the report. There was, however, a considerable compensating increase under the heads "Forests," "Excise," and "Miscellaneous." The aggregate increase in expenditure was Rs. 1,28,675, of which Rs. 60,600 were nominal; the rest was incurred principally under "Forests," and also under other heads. The comparative increase was, however, reduced by the absence of the grant of Rs. 1,00,000 made in the previous year to Provincial Services.

Land revenue.

23. The current demand on account of ordinary land revenue during the year, as compared with the current demand of the previous year, shows an increase of Rs. 1,13,911. This increase is due partly to the extension of cultivation, and partly to the re-settlement of estates at enhanced rentals.

On the other hand, the current demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue shows a falling off of Rs. 65,146, as compared with the current demand for 1875-76. This

falling off is due partly to the fact that many of the elephant mehals were allowed to rest during the year, and partly to the exclusion from the demand of the year of the sums which, though due on account of the year, were not legally recoverable before its close.

Excise.

24. The excise revenue of this Province shows a steady increase. The total net abkari revenue (inclusive of the sale of opium) during the year amounted to Rs. 14,09,752, as compared with Rs. 13,90,408 in 1875-76 and Rs. 13,59,331 in 1874-75. Deducting the receipts from the sale of opium, the net excise revenue of the year under report and of the two previous years was Rs. 2,27,158, Rs. 2,07,205, and Rs. 2,02,969, respectively. The increased revenue during 1876-77 has been mainly under the heads "country spirits," "imported wines," and "ganja," and has been obtained by raising the taxation on the vend of the commodities, chiefly by putting up local monopolies to auction, while, at the same time, consumption has been checked.

Stamps.

25. The gross receipts on account of stamp revenue during the year amounted to Rs. 4,87,332, against Rs. 5,06,115 in the preceding year, showing a decrease of Rs. 18,783, as compared with the receipts for 1875-76. The principal immediate causes of this diminution of income are apparently a decrease in the amount of litigation, in the value of suits, and in the number of deeds of sale executed during the year. What more remote causes may have produced these conditions is not so clear. The greater circulation of currency notes and the introduction of supply-bills, combined with a decrease in monetary transactions in Cachar, are also said to have contributed to this result.

Revenue and finance other than Imperial.

26. The receipts and charges during the year under Provincial Services amounted to Rs. 17,65,430 and Rs. 16,79,387, respectively, showing a surplus of Rs. 86,043. This result, considering that the previous two years closed with a deficit under this head, is very satisfactory. Expenditure had to be largely reduced in order to produce this result. Public Works alone show a decrease of nearly two lakhs.

Local Funds.

27. The figures under this head show a surplus. Details are given in the body of the report, and there is nothing special to notice in this summary.

Births and deaths.

28. The Chief Commissioner regrets that the returns of vital statistics are still as untrustworthy as ever, and that no deductions of the slightest value can be drawn from them. The necessity for exercising supervision in this matter has been strongly impressed upon district officers; and it is hoped that, with respect to the selected areas, at least, approximately true statistics may be obtained in future. To the obtaining of trustworthy general statistics, Colonel Keatinge does not look forward very hopefully.

Immigration.

29. For the reasons given in last year's report, no comparison can be attempted between the statistics for the year under review and those for the previous year, but the returns for the year are themselves complete. These returns show a total increase in the immigrant population of the Province during the year of 23,071 souls. A considerable further increase of this population may be looked for in future years, as, with the extension of the tea-industry the demand for labour becomes greater every year, and, with increased facilities of communication, the obstacles in the way of supplying this demand will gradually diminish. The condition of the immigrant population is decidedly good. They are, as a rule, well-housed and cared for, and cases of ill-treatment are very exceptional. The main causes of desertion may be said to be the desire for change and and the temptation of securing a fresh bonus on re-engagement.

The opening of the Northern Bengal Railway as far as Rangpur will lessen the present high cost of importation, and will, at the same time, no doubt, considerably reduce the percentage of mortality among the immigrants on their upward journey.

Medical relief.

30. The number of dispensaries was increased by one during the year. There has been a considerable increase in the number of patients treated, and in the number of operations performed. Financially speaking, the result of the working of these institutions has been fairly satisfactory; but it is questionable whether they are as popular as they should be among those for whose benefit they are established.

Lunatic asylums.

31. There is only one lunatic asylum in this Province, the Tezpur Asylum, which was opened on the 1st April, 1876. The building is merely of a temporary character, to supply the immediate needs of the Province until such time as funds are available for the construction of more suitable and permanent accommodation for the insanes. The institution, such as it is, has been found to answer its purpose as well as could have been expected.

Sanitation.

32. But little advance has been made during the year in the matter of sanitation. In the principal towns sanitary measures have been adopted with the best results; but anything like a general system of rural sanitation is impossible without a very large expenditure, altogether out of proportion to the population and resources of the country. The peculiar formation of the country, and the habits of the people, are almost insuperable obstacles in the way of sanitary reforms.

Vaccination.

33. Vaccination operations in this Province are on a small scale, and the staff of vaccinators is limited. The total amount of work done during the year under report was only at the rate of 4·99 vaccinated per 1,000 of the population. In particular districts, however, a much larger percentage was obtained. Vaccination operations have in many parts to contend with much passive opposition.

Education.

34. The working of the Education Department during the year must be pronounced to have been, on the whole, fairly successful. Though there was a decrease in the total number of schools, still there was an increased attendance, and, at the same time, there was a considerable reduction in the total expenditure on education.

The reduction in the number of schools was among the classes of schools known as the middle vernacular and middle English. Primary schools were two more in number than last year. Higher-class schools remained the same.

The increased attendance at the primary schools was considerable, the middle vernacular schools alone showing a falling off.

The contribution of the people towards the cost of education was greater in 1876-77 than in the previous year, being 32 per cent. of the total cost of educational operations against 29 per cent. in 1875-76.

The duty of inspection appears to have been adequately performed by the subordinate officers of the department.

The normal schools supplied a fair number of recruits to the lower ranks of the teaching agency of the Province.

One of the technical schools has proved fairly successful, the other, never popular, was closed during the year.

35. CONCLUSION.—The year's administration has been comparatively uneventful. It has not been marked by the introduction of any important change or new measure, with the exception of the abolition of fee-simple sales of waste lands. The more immediate wants of the country have, however, not been overlooked, and the foundations of still further improvements have been laid. More, indeed, might have been effected, had not the necessity for retrenchment and economy, in consequence of the financial deficits of the two preceding years, crippled the provincial resources.

The spread of cultivation and the continued extension of the tea industry are gratifying proofs of the healthy growth of the natural development of the Province, while the advance of the Trunk Road throughout the Assam Valley, and the extension of the line of telegraph to the most distant head-quarters station, Dibrugarh, are among the instances of the furtherance of this growth on the part of Government.

The general executive machinery of Government has, the Chief Commissioner thinks, worked throughout the Province with satisfactory efficiency, and with no lack of zeal on the part of the officers engaged in it.

PART II.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1876-77.

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Administration Report for 1876-77.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

SECTION 1.—CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION.

Investiture of the Chief Commissioner with powers under Act VII. of 1870.

1. (*a*) *General.*—The only alteration in the powers of the Administration which has to be recorded during the year is the investiture of the Chief Commissioner with powers under Act VII. of 1870 (Court-fees Act) by a notification in the *Gazette of India*, dated 23rd June, 1877.

Sibságar Inner Line.

2. (*b*) *Political.*—The Sibságar Inner Line, under Regulation V. of 1873, was notified by the Government of India on the 21st June, 1876. The line follows the southern revenue survey boundary of the district from its eastern limit, namely, a point on the Disang river, to its western limit, a point on the Doyang river.

Lakhimpur and Cachar Inner Lines.

3. The demarcation of the Inner Line in Lakhimpur has been finished, but the demarcation of the Inner Line on the southern frontier of Cachar has been delayed. It will, however, shortly be completed.

4. A form of pass, framed in accordance with the provisions of the regulation above quoted, has been adopted, and is now in force in all the districts to which the Regulation has been extended, *viz.*, Lakhimpur, Darrang, Sibságar, and Cachar.

Sub-divisions in Sylhet.

5. Establishments have been sanctioned for each of the three new sub-divisions in Sylhet, Sunámganj, Lashkarpur, and Latu, and the Sunámganj sub-

division was opened in December, 1876. The Chief Commissioner purposes opening the two other sub-divisions at an early date, and sites are being selected for their respective head-quarters.

Cachar and Jaintiá Hills boundary.

6. (*d*) *Revision of district and internal boundaries.*—The boundary between the district of Cachar and the district of the Khási and Jaintiá Hills was found to need rectification, and two officers, Messrs. Shadwell and Damant, were specially deputed for this duty, under Section 10, Act XXII. of 1869. The boundary was properly defined, and duly approved of by the Government of India on the 28th July, 1877.

Gáro Hills and Maimansing, and Gáro Hills and Khasi Hills boundaries.

7. The demarcation of these boundaries has been proceeded with during the year, but has not yet been completed. The boundaries have not as yet been notified.

Kámrúp-Khási Hills boundary.

8. The survey of the boundary between the district of Kámrúp and the district of the Khási and Jaintiá Hills has been completed, and has been defined by permanent marks. The boundary, having been approved of by the Government of India, was notified in the *Gazette of India* dated 6th September, 1876.

Revision of the munsiffi jurisdictions in Sylhet.

9. The local limits of the munsiffis in the district of Sylhet were re-adjusted by a notification in the *Assam Gazette* dated 12th May, 1876. The jurisdiction of the Small Cause Court Judge of Sylhet was also settled.

Revision of thannah boundaries in Cachar.

10. The thannah divisions in the district of Cachar were re-arranged by a gazette notification dated 8th May, 1876.

Gáro Hills and Goálpára boundary.

11. The commission which was appointed to adjudicate on the claims for compensation consequent upon the re-adjustment of the Gáro-Goálpára boundary under Section 7, Act XXII. of 1869, as mentioned in last year's report, completed their investigation and reported, in July of this year, the award which they proposed to make in each case. These awards the zemindars concerned, with one exception, refused to accept, and filed civil suits against Government contesting the validity of the demarcation and the legality of the assumption of the management of the villages under the Act by Government. The cases came on for preliminary hearing and determination of issues in the succeeding February. Meanwhile, further negotiations were entered into with the zemindars, and terms of mutual compromise were proposed, differing somewhat from the awards of the commission, which they seemed prepared to accept; the legal aspect of the boundary proceedings remaining for the decision of the Supreme Government.

SECTION II.—RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

TRIBUTARY STATES.—MANIPUR.

12. As regards the dependent State of Manipur, the political relations with which are partially conducted by the Chief Commissioner, there is little to chronicle.

The question of the acquisition by the Maharajah of Manipur of land in British territory was settled during the year under review. It having come to the knowledge of the Chief Commissioner that the Maharajah held under settlement pottah extensive lands in Sylhet and Cachar, Colonel Keatinge expressed to the Government of India his opinion that it was undesirable that the Maharajah should acquire land in British territory. In this opinion the Government of India concurred. The Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar was accordingly directed to cancel the proceedings in all cases in which settlement had not been actually concluded with the Maharajah. The land already acquired by the Maharajah the Chief Commissioner decided he should be allowed to hold, but he forbade him to acquire any more. Later on, a similar question arose as to the settlement of certain ilam estates in Sylhet, to which the Maharajah had a claim to re-settlement. In this matter, the Chief Commissioner ruled that, as regards such estates acquired by the Maharajah previous to the date upon which the distinct prohibition against his acquiring land in British territory was communicated to him, the settlement, though it could not be made with the Maharajah directly, would be made with any British subject whom the Maharajah might select as responsible for the revenue.

The question of the definition of the boundary between Manipur and British territory in the direction of the Nága and North Cachar Hills was alluded to in last year's report. No progress has been made in the matter during the year under review. It was arranged to form one of the subjects for debate at a conference to be held at Shillong in September, at which the Political Agent, Manipur, and the Political Officer, Nága Hills, were to be present.

The two political detenus, Shekor Singh and Nirjit Singh (mentioned in para. 27 of last year's report), are still under surveillance at Sylhet. Their behaviour during the year under report has been peaceable. Two other detenus, Gokul Singh and Doyabunda Singh, were, under the orders of the Supreme Government, forwarded by the Government of Bengal to the Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar, who released them on the boundary between Cachar and Manipur.

The subject of the importation of arms and ammunition into the Nága Hills from Manipur has engaged the Chief Commissioner's attention during the year, but no tangible result has as yet been elicited.

The Manipur Durbar have, on several occasions, complained of raids by Nágas from British territory upon Nága villages in Manipur territory. Measures to be taken for putting a stop to these raids have been ordered by the Government of India, and will, it is trusted, be carried out early in the present dry season.

An investigation, which had been directed by the Government of India to be made into certain charges preferred by the Maharajah against the then Political Agent, Dr. Brown, was conducted at Manipur by Colonel Sherer, an officer deputed by the Chief Commissioner for the purpose, under instructions from the Supreme Government. The result of the inquiry was that the charges made against Dr. Brown failed altogether to be substantiated. His death, unfortunately, occurred before the inquiry was concluded. An officer from the Assam Commission was temporarily appointed to conduct the duties of Political Agent, until the appointment of Dr. Brown's successor.

Frontier Tribes.

13. A detailed description of the various tribes with whom we have political relations was given in last year's Administration Report. In the present, as in the last report, these tribes are treated of in the order of their geographical position.

Bhutias.

14. Our relations with the Bhutias throughout the year were peaceful. In May, 1877, one Gaicha, a Bhután Soobah and Vakeel residing at Buxa, who described himself as an agent of the Deb Rajah, addressed two communications to the Deputy-Commissioner of Goálpára with reference to certain tolls. These letters were subsequently forwarded to the Commissioner of Kuch Behar, in accordance with the course prescribed by the Government of India. The letters called for no further action on the part of this Administration.

On hearing of the visit of Mr. Anley, District Superintendent of Police, Kámrúp, to Dewangiri in February, 1877, a Bhutia official, a nephew of the Jogga Rajah, set out for that place, accompanied by a party of Bhutia soldiers, in order to obtain an interview with Mr. Anley. Mr. Anley had, however, left Dewangiri before the arrival of the Bhutias, who despatched after him a complimentary letter, and a present for the Deputy-Commissioner.

From the beginning of January to the end of March, 1877, the usual bands of traders from among the Bhutia tribes bordering on the district of Darrang came into that district, and drove a steady trade with the Kacharis, and Marwari and other merchants.

The Sáth Rajahs of Kariapára and Chárduár.

15. The Sáth Rajahs of Kariapára paid a visit to the Deputy-Commissioner of Darrang at Udalguri on the 1st February. The object of

their visit was to urge upon the Deputy-Commissioner the desirability of suspending the operation of the Inner Line Regulation with respect to their territory. They represented that they were put to much inconvenience, owing to the fact that our ryots, who are annually employed by them in carrying grain to Amratol, the first stage in the hills, are compelled to take out passes. In reply, the Rajahs were informed that, if they would give the Deputy-Commissioner a list of the names of the ryots they had engaged for the current year, a general pass would be issued in their names. The Rajahs were also very anxious that the large weekly market held at Kalaigaon should be closed for two months in the year, on the ground that it drew away a large quantity of the grain which formerly found its way to Udalguri. This request, however, could not possibly be complied with.

16. Towards the close of December, 1876, the Deputy-Commissioner of Darrang, Colonel Sherer, having heard that the Rajahs of Shergaon and Rupraigaon, commonly called the Sáth Rajahs of Chárduár, had come down to their annual trading place at Daimárá, two miles due north of our boundary line, sent them an invitation to be present at the Durbar about to be held at Tezpur, for the proclamation of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen as Empress of India. The Rajahs readily accepted the invitation, and arrived at Tezpur on the 1st January, where they took part in the Durbar proceedings held on that day. They were afterwards received by the Deputy-Commissioner in open court, when they were paid their pensions, and the object of the assumption of the title of Empress by Her Most Gracious Majesty was explained to them. The Rajahs reported that all was quiet in their country, and gave expression to most friendly feelings towards the British Government. Before leaving, they questioned the Deputy-Commissioner with respect to the guard which had been placed at Daimárá, at the mouth of the pass, for the purpose of the registration of foreign trade statistics; and, upon Colonel Sherer explaining to them the reason for the guard being stationed there, they expressed themselves quite satisfied. It is a fact worthy of note that the Rajahs made no allusion during their visit to the boundary question, which they invariably discussed at former interviews.

17. The representatives of the Thebengia Bhutias came down, as usual, to receive their pensions. They evinced a very friendly spirit.

Bhutia Fairs.

18. A short history of the establishment of these fairs, as far as could be ascertained, was given in last year's report (pages 8 and 9).

19. *The Udalguri Fair.*—This fair was held, as usual, in the month of February. The attendance of the hillmen was less than during the previous year (their number being estimated at 590 only), owing to an outbreak of small-pox in the Mangaldai sub-division. One Bhutia

who attended the fair was attacked by the disease, and the news, reaching other Bhutias who were on their way to the fair, deterred them from proceeding thither.

The Chief Commissioner was himself present at the fair, and, while there, received a visit from the two Bhutia officers who are known as the Gelling Rajahs. These officials wore what the Chief Commissioner believes to be Chinese mandarins' hats. They had been invited to meet Colonel Keatinge. These officials ordinarily remain at Amratol while the Bhutias are in the plains, but on this occasion they readily accepted the Deputy-Commissioner's invitation. On the 9th February, the Rajahs and their attendants were received by the Chief Commissioner in open durbar, when they presented a petition, asking for the suspension of the Inner Line Regulation. They were told that, on a duly authenticated application being made from the proper quarter, the Chief Commissioner would take the matter into consideration. The Rajahs left for Amratol after receiving their pension. They appeared to be very favourably impressed with all they saw. It is to be hoped that in future they will be regular visitors at the fair.

The Deputy-Commissioner calculates the exports at Rs. 13,805, and the imports at Rs. 44,439. The exports in 1875 and 1876 were ascertained to be Rs. 35,432 and Rs. 50,425, respectively. The cause of the decrease in the value of exports is attributed by the Deputy-Commissioner partly to the small attendance of hillmen, and partly to the fact that much of the grain which used to be sold at the Udalguri fair is now sold to the Bhutias at the weekly market held at Kalaigaon.

20. *Kerkaria Fair.*—The Kerkaria fair was held this year at Khagrapara, near Bengbári, within the Inner Line, and not at Kerkaria, as last year. The value of the imports from Bhután were calculated at Rs. 19,897, and that of the exports from Assam at Rs. 9,669. The exports show a great falling off, as compared with the figures for the previous year, Rs. 16,078; but the Deputy-Commissioner thinks that a large portion of the goods exported escaped registration. The attendance of the hill people at the fair was calculated at 324, double the attendance at the previous year's fair. The behaviour of the Bhutias was all that could be desired.

21. *Daimárá Fair.*—This fair was held again this year at Daimárá. The imports were calculated at Rs. 3,727, and the exports at Rs. 11,833. The imports show a falling off, but the exports show a considerable increase, the figures for the previous year having been Rs. 7,452 and Rs. 5,636, respectively. The Deputy-Commissioner considers that the statistics of trade at this fair are correct, as the registering officer occupies a most advantageous situation, rendering it almost impossible for traders to evade him. He is, however, by no means satisfied as to the accuracy of the statistics of trade for the other two fairs. Accuracy can hardly be expected, but the Chief Commissioner thinks that the figures are fairly approximate. The behaviour of the Bhutias at Daimárá was good.

The Akas.

22. The Western or Hazári-Khoa Akas showed themselves well-disposed and peaceable throughout the year, and the Kapás-Chor Akas behaved well on the whole. The two younger brothers of their chief Medhi studied throughout the year at the Balipárá school. The arrangement in progress with this clan about the allotment of a tract of waste land is now approaching completion, as they have finally selected the plot to be assigned to them, and it now only remains to survey and mark off the land.

Dufflas.

23. The Paschim Dufflas living on the boundary of Darrang were very peaceable during the year. They came, both hill and plains men, as usual, to Tezpur to receive their allowance, and conducted themselves with propriety.

As regards the Tagin Dufflas, who live on the boundary of North Lakhimpur, the Assistant-Commissioner in charge of North Lakhimpur reports that they came down in large numbers to trade, and that they behaved well. Since the close of the year, however, an outrage was perpetrated by a party of Dufflas, who plundered the shop of a Marwari merchant, and wounded two of his servants. Measures have been taken to exact reparation for the outrage, and to recover the stolen property. The result will be detailed in the report for the current year.

There were some instances during the year of the Dufflas fighting among themselves in the hills. These internal feuds, when not carried to excess, do not, of course, concern us, save in so far as the location of refugees with injuries to avenge in British territory may lead to frontier complications. Pakfi Gam is believed to be the principal creator of disturbances in the hills. He has been invited by Lieutenant Maxwell, the sub-divisional officer, North Lakhimpur, to meet him at Harmati, with a view to the settlement of these blood-feuds; but Pakfi, on one excuse or another, has put off the meeting from time to time. Lieutenant Maxwell, however, does not despair of finally securing an interview with this chief, and of putting matters on a satisfactory footing.

The Miris.

24. The Miris conducted themselves during the year under report, as they have hitherto done, in an orderly and peaceable manner. Lieutenant Maxwell paid a visit to their hills, and was received with great hospitality, and with every sign of cordiality: volunteers were ready to carry his baggage, and on his departure he was requested by the leading chiefs to pay them another visit during the ensuing year.

The Abors.

25. The Abors Proper, or Bor Abors, gave no trouble during the year, but their attitude was, as heretofore, more or less hostile and sulky,

They were at first inclined to dispute the advance of the Great Trigonometrical Survey party under Lieutenant Harman, R.E., for the purpose of taking up survey points on the Nári and Pogarosi Hills, in the first range of hills. They were, however, deterred from active opposition by the presence of a strong escort of the 44th Sylhet Light Infantry under Major Robertson, and the survey party occupied the desired points without molestation. Further survey operations on the north bank of the Brahmaputra, opposite the Abor country, have, however, on account of the threatening attitude of these savages, been prohibited by the Government of India.

Under the orders of the Chief Commissioner, a change was introduced during the year into the system of distributing "posa" to the Abors. Instead of, as heretofore, Government officers proceeding to certain points, and waiting until the Abors came to receive their "posa," the representatives of this tribe were ordered to attend at Sadiyá, and there to receive the "posa" due to them. This order, after some demur, they obeyed. The above change was very necessary, as, under the former system, the Abors were occasionally insolent, and kept the officers awaiting their convenience.

The Deputy-Commissioner of Lakhimpur reports that the Abors of Pasial are the chief instigators of mischief among the Abor tribes.

The Mishmis, &c.

26. The Mishmis, Khamptis, and Singphos behaved very well during the year; they attended the Sadiyá fair, as usual, their chief men receiving and giving small presents. The Topographical Survey party under Lieutenant Woodthorpe, R.E., was employed during the cold season in the Khampti-Singpho country, and, save one instance of incivility, met with uniform attention and respect from these tribes.

The Mishmis are eager traders, and, for some time subsequent to the close of the Sadiyá fair, their trading parties kept coming and going with merchandise, principally rubber. Their head chief, Lakow, is on excellent terms with us, and remains in the plains so long as his trading parties are on the move. It was reported to the Deputy-Commissioner that an attempt was made during the year by the Abors to form an alliance, offensive and defensive, with the Mishmis, against our Government, but the negotiations broke down. The communication of the Mishmis with the plains *viâ* Nizámghát is more than ever threatened by the Abors, some of whom have come down and settled in the plains towards Nizámghát. This move may, possibly, cause future complications.

Sadiyá Fair.

27. The usual annual fair was held at Sadiyá on the 3rd January, 1877, and subsequent days, and is reported by the Deputy-Commissioner to have been a success. The hillmen, especially the Chúlikáta Mishmis, attended in considerable numbers, and a fairly brisk trade was

carried on. There was also a large attendance of Europeans. Athletic sports and horse-races took place, in which the hillmen showed considerable interest; afterwards, native games were held, in which the hillmen joined. On the fourth day, the Deputy-Commissioner held a durbar, at which he received the various hill chiefs, making and receiving small presents. Very few Abors put in an appearance. Their absence is hardly to be regretted, as, had they attended in large numbers, an affray betweeen them and the Chúlikáta Mishmis, with whom their relations are by no means friendly, might have resulted.

The Deputy-Commissioner estimates the value of the exports and imports at the fair at Rs. 19,915 and Rs. 54,724, respectively. The exports show a considerable falling off, as compared with the preceding year. The figures are, however, only approximate. The Deputy-Commissioner remarks, moreover, that the valuation of the articles is somewhat arbitrary.

The Chief Commissioner considers this fair, next to the Bhutia fair at Udalguri, to be the most important of all the frontier fairs, as it affords a means of entering into communications with the tribes lying behind the Mishmis towards Thibet and China. The first necessity is a safe road to the plains, and this Colonel Keatinge will do his best to secure; but the settling of the Abors near Nizámghát, as already mentioned, is calculated to block communication.

The Nágas.

28. As in last year's report, the Nágas directly under the jurisdiction of the Political Officer of the Nága Hills will be treated of in the account of the administration of the hill districts. In this portion of the report, our relations with the Nágas generally may be discussed. The conduct of the Nága tribes bordering on the districts of Nowgong, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur has been, on the whole, satisfactory during the year. Petty thefts along the border were as numerous as ever, but none of the cases presented any special features. There was one case of murder by Nágas in Sibságar: two boys of the Khuhima tribe of Nágas murdered an Assamese villager and his daughter, in consequence of a dispute about paddy which they had with the former. The murderers were tried, and sentenced each to transportation for life. One serious case occurred in Sibságar: a party of the Lungtai Nágas, who are at feud with the Kamsingia Nágas, not being able to attack the latter in the hills, came down to the plains and lay in ambush for their adversaries on the Kamsingia path, within the Inner Line, and made an attack upon the first party of them who appeared. Only one man, however, was slightly wounded. Two of the offenders were captured, and were detained as political prisoners for a period of 66 days, when they were released upon their entering into an engagement not to again carry on their feuds within the Inner Line. In the same district, an affray took place between some Talajoo Nágas, who were working on a tea-garden, and a trading

party of the Changtoong Nágas, on account of a quarrel about a dao. Thirteen of the rioters were captured, and sentenced to one month's imprisonment each.

The Deputy-Commissioner of Sibságar reports that the Nágas of the Kongon and Namsangia tribes readily furnished the labour required by the survey party employed in exploring the line of railway from the coal-beds in the Dikhu Valley.

The result of the punitive expedition against the village of Ninu and other villages implicated in the attack upon Lieutenant Holcombe was detailed in last year's report. During the year under review, the Chief Commissioner extended pardon to the Ninu men, and permitted them to occupy the site where their village formerly stood, upon their headmen coming to Jaipur with presents, and humbly suing for pardon.

The annual amount agreed upon was paid during the year to the Nágas, on account of the withdrawal of their claims to certain land beyond the Lakhimpur Inner Line, and, as far as they are concerned, no trouble is now anticipated in the matter of the Námsang and other gardens situated near the Nága frontier.

The Mikirs.

29. The Mikirs showed themselves throughout the year, as heretofore, to be a quiet inoffensive people, and gave no trouble whatever.

Tribes of North Cachar.

30. In the report for 1875-76 it was stated that the tribes inhabiting the North Cachar Hills suffered somewhat from the troublesome visits of the Angami Nágas. Hitherto, these savages have generally confined themselves to extorting blackmail from the hillmen beyond our district borders, but during the year under review they ventured a step further. On the 24th February, 1877, a raid was committed by a band, of about twenty Angami Nágas on the British Nága village of Gumaigaju, situated about eight miles to the west of the frontier outpost of Assalu. The attack was made shortly before daybreak, and resulted in six of the villagers being killed and two wounded. Some property, including two guns, was carried off. It has been since ascertained that the raiders came from the Angami village of Mozema. A punitive expedition is to be sent against Mozema during the cold weather of the current year.

The draft regulation for the administration of North Cachar, alluded to in last year's report, is no longer under the Chief Commissioner's consideration, as the Frontier Tracts Regulation, a draft of which has been submitted for the approval of the Government of India, will, if approved, render further special legislation for this tract unnecessary.

The establishment of a civil officer in these hills is, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, a necessity for their due administration and for their further development. He trusts that before long it may be possible to provide for this want.

KUKIS, LUSHAIS, AND OTHER HILL TRIBES ON THE SOUTHERN FRONTIER OF CACHAR AND SYLHET.

31. Our relations with these tribes have been very friendly during the year under review, which has been further signalized by a visit of the Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar to Lushai territory. In January, 1877, Mr. H. Luttman-Johnson, then Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar, accompanied by Extra-Assistant-Commissioner Hari Charan Sarmah, Rai Bahadur, and by Mr. Savi, Assistant-Superintendent of Police, in command of 50 men of the frontier police force, entered Lushai territory at Changsil Bazar, on the Dhuleswar river. From thence, the party marched through the hills to Sonai Bazar, and then proceeded to Kulicherra mukh, on the Bárak river, at which point they took boat, returning to Silchar by way of the Monierkhal outpost. Mr. Johnson spent altogether about three weeks in the Lushai Hills, experiencing much hospitality from those of the inhabitants with whom he came in contact. He was unfortunately unable to arrange an interview with either Sukpilal or Khalgom, these chiefs excusing their non-attendance on different grounds. The Deputy-Commissioner, however, paid a visit to, and received a visit from, Sailengpoi, who is said to be the favourite son of Sukpilal. Sailengpoi evinced during the interviews a most friendly disposition. The tour was, on the whole, most successful, an issue due to a great extent to the caution and tact displayed by Mr. Johnson. It is desirable, the Chief Commissioner thinks, that the Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar should pay occasional visits to these hills. Such visits enable that officer to bring his personal influence to bear upon the chiefs, an influence which can be most usefully exercised in settling their internal quarrels.

There is little reason to fear any immediate raids into British territory by the Lushais, but internal feuds lead to the location within our boundaries of refugees, and, thereby, to possible complications. The steps taken by the Chief Commissioner to obviate such difficulties have been detailed in last year's report.

Little is known of the internal movements of these tribes during the year, our only source of information being the traders who attend the Lushai bazars. It was reported that an expedition had been undertaken by Sukpilal's son, Lempong, and Laljika in October, 1876, against Pugrying, a Syloo village, in which the village was plundered and several of the inhabitants carried away into slavery. Recently, news has been received that fighting has broken out between Khalgom, the most powerful of Sukpilal's sons, and the easter. Lushais under Poiboi. The quarrel is said to have originated through Khalgom having jhúmed land to which Poiboi laid claim. Poiboi and Lalhai would appear to be

often guilty of acts of oppression towards the weaker chiefs. In 1875-76, Tantow, a petty eastern chief, having been attacked and robbed by Poiboi, came and settled near to Tipai Mukh. The Chief Commissioner, considering his location in this place objectionable, ordered him to return to Lushai territory, or to move to a safer spot,—he adopted the former course. Subsequently, twenty-two families of Tantow's village came into British territory, and asked for protection, saying that they could no longer tolerate the constant oppression they suffered at the hands of Poiboi and Lalhai. They stated that Tantow himself had lately been seized by Poiboi, and placed in confinement, but had been released at the instance of Lengkam. These refugees have been located for the present in the Kuki village, on the west bank of the Bárak river, opposite the mouth of the Jhiri river.

Our trade with the Lushais continues to decrease, owing to the gradual exhaustion of their rubber-supply. Before long, this commodity will cease to be procurable in Lushai territory, and then the almost sole inducement to traders to resort to the Lushai bazars will cease to exist. Owing to the decrease in the rubber-supply, several of the shops that previously existed in these bazars have been closed. There were formerly six shops at Changsil Bazar, eight shops at Sonai Bazar, and five shops at Tipai Mukh. It is reported that six out of these nineteen shops have now been closed. The price of rubber, moreover, has fallen in Calcutta, and the profits from the trade have decreased. The Deputy-Commissioner fears that there will shortly be an almost complete cessation of trade between our districts and Lushai land. This result is much to be regretted.

32. On the whole, the tribes bordering on our frontier have, with the exception of the Angami Nágas and the Abors, given no grounds for complaint, and the year has been almost unmarked by border disturbances.

33. There now only remain to be treated of the tribes who are more or less under our direct administrative control, *viz.*, the Nágas of the Nága Hills district, the Khásias, and the Gáros.

Nága Hills District.

34. The report of the Political Officer shows that our power is slowly becoming consolidated in this district, although the Angami Nágas have continued during the year under review their raidings and head-taking among themselves, and in one instance, as already related in para. 30, made an attack upon a British village. The Chief Commissioner is fully convinced that here especially the exhibition of a firm policy is imperatively needed, in rigorously prohibiting such outrages for the future, and in reducing to a submissive attitude the two most arrogant of the villages, Mozema and Konoma, who are in nearly all cases either the instigators or perpetrators of these deeds of violence. Such a policy has been recently sanctioned by the Supreme

Government, and it is confidently expected that the measures which will be taken during the present cold weather will bear the fruit anticipated from them.

The weaker villages continue to seek our protection, and the voluntary submission of three more communities, *viz.*, Zowna, Nidzuma, and Hemmah, has been received during the year.

The villages previously taken under our protectorate have steadily increased the area of their cultivation. This is a very encouraging fact, and, no doubt, has had a strong effect in inducing others to follow their example. In all, a total of 14 villages have thus come under our protection as revenue-paying subjects.

The system of receiving delegates from the more important communities has continued to work well.

Preparations are in progress to remove the head-quarters station from Samaguting to Wokha, or some other more healthy situation.

Trade of a certain kind is already fairly active in these hills, and, when tranquillity is thoroughly established, will no doubt considerably expand.

Road-making has been carried on with energy during the year, and the Nágas of the eastern parts are said to have flocked to take employment on these works. This is a gratifying sign of their inclination for settled pursuits. A school has been successfully opened at Samaguting, and the dispensary at that station is growing in popularity.

Khási and Jaintiá Hills.

35. The Seims and Sirdars of the petty States in these hills have generally behaved well during the year under report. It was only necessary to inquire into one case of mal-administration during the period.

The Seim of the State of Nongspung died during the year, and a successor was duly elected.

There is every evidence that trade in these hills is in a thriving condition, and capable of much expansion.

Communications have been kept in good order, and the cart-road between Shillong and Gauháti has been opened for traffic. The prices of food and labour have remained almost stationary.

Gáro Hills.

36. The attitude of the Gáros throughout the year were have been markedly quiet. They may be said to have already the intervening and orderly subjects. Some [illegible] Communications have been [illegible] during the year was Rs. 6,122.

Vaccine operations among the Gáros have been successful, and the progress of education under the management of the Missionaries is very fairly satisfactory.

The Luskers and Lukhmas have, with some few exceptions, been well-behaved, and have discharged their duties satisfactorily.

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CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

SECTION I.—SURVEYS.

37. *Topographical.*—During the winter of 1876-77, No. 6 Topographical Survey Party was employed partly in the Khási Hills and partly in the Lakhimpur district. Major Badgley, in charge of the party, was employed in the revision of the maps of the country bordering the road from Shillong to Gauháti; Messrs. Chennell and Robert surveyed the boundary between the Khási Hills and Kámrúp; and Lieutenant Woodthorpe and Mr. Ogle surveyed the country at the foot of the hills to the south-east of the Lakhimpur district, known as the Valley of the Noa Dehing.

In the Khási Hills, 369 square miles were surveyed on the scale of 1 mile to the inch, and the Khási-Kámrúp boundary was finished on the scale ½ a mile to the inch.

In Lakhimpur, about 717 square miles were surveyed on the scale of 2 miles to the inch. The country surveyed in each case was very wild, and covered with forest and other jungle, and had little in it of interest; but the geographical results obtained in the Lakhimpur district were very valuable.

38. *Trigonometrical.*—At the close of the field season of 1875-76 the principal series of triangles of the Assam Valley series had been carried up as far as Dibrugarh church. In 1876-77 the series was taken up the course of the Brahmaputra River, and completed finally as far as Sadiya quarter-guard.

A connection was also made with the "H. S. of Manabum," of the Topographical Survey, a point about 18 miles east of Sadiya, and the whole of the snowy and other peaks surrounding the head of the Valley of Assam were fixed. It was found, however, necessary to fix other stations on the peaks of the Abor Hills on the northern side of the valley.

Two selected peaks, named "Dipa" and "Nari," were accordingly visited in the month of January by Lieutenant Harman's party, accompanied by a small military escort, and observations were made from them, a rough sketch of the [illegible]graphy of the intervening tracts being at the same time obtain[illegible] 9,986

The [illegible]nents during the year was Rs. 6,122.

Besides the work of the principal series between Dibrugarh and Sadiya, the branch series, "Dibrugarh to Jaipur" (designed to fix the position of two hill peaks on the outer range of the Nága Hills), common to the Revenue and Topographical Surveys, was carried on.

The cutting of all the rays of this branch series was accomplished, but some observations remained to be effected, which it is hoped will be taken early in the ensuing field season.

39. *Revenue.*—In last year's report the operations of Mr. Patterson, Revenue Surveyor, first grade, and his party in connection with the survey of the waste land grants and the revenue-free tenures in the district of Darrang were detailed in full, and it was stated that the work was successfully brought to a close in that district on the 1st April, 1876. Subsequently, however, the cancelment by the Chief Commissioner of the escheat to Government of certain la-kheraj holdings in that district necessitated their survey. In addition to this work, the party surveyed three waste land grants, and the boundaries of three mouzahs and of two la- and nisf-kheraj estates in the same district.

The principal work, however, upon which Mr. Patterson and his party were employed during the year was the survey of the la and nisf-kheraj estates in the Kámrúp district. The outturn of the season's work of Mr. Patterson's party has been as follows :—

(1) The preliminary interior survey of 224 estates, with an approximate area of 20,000 acres.

(2) The final boundary survey of 75 estates or holdings, comprising an area of 6,249 64 acres.

In addition to the above, the interior and final boundary survey of two waste land grants, comprising an area of 962·61 acres, was completed.

In co-operation with Mr. Patterson, Babu Fatick Chandra Barua, Extra-Assistant-Commissioner, on special la-kheraj duty, was employed in identifying and determining the areas of the la-kheraj and nisf-kheraj holdings in Kámrúp. He adjusted and demarcated during the year 1,522 estates, comprising an area of 42,706·93 acres. Of these, 444 estates, with an area of 33,454·54 acres, were made over to Mr. Patterson for final survey. The total number of estates demarcated by the special Extra-Assistant-Commissioner from the commencement of his operations up to the 31st March, 1877, has been 1,738, with an area of 62,660·41 acres. Of these, in all 623 estates, comprising an area of 51,769·54 acres, have been made over to the survey party. The total number of such holdings in Kámrúp being 4,642, with an area of 533,599 acres, there still remain 2,904 estates, comprising an area of 470,938·59 acres, to be demarcated.

The Chief Commissioner cannot therefore expect the completion of the survey operations in Kámrúp for several years to come.

40. *Railway.*—A survey of the Dikhu Valley was undertaken, with the view to ascertain the cost of laying a light railway from the coal-fields of violence. Such a policy has been recen[illegible] the Brahmaputra. No report, [illegible]s of the survey par[illegible]

SECTION 2.—SETTLEMENTS.

41. *Work in hand.*—The settlements in progress during the year were—

(1.) Re-settlement of ilam estates in Sylhet.
(2.) „ of other petty scattered estates in Sylhet.
(3.) „ of Jaintiá, in Sylhet.
(4.) Settlements of waste land in Cachar.
(5.) Petty re-settlements in Goálpára.
(6.) Annual settlements in Assam Proper.

42. *Re-settlement of ilam estates in Sylhet.*—The progress made in the ilam settlements was as follows:—

In 360 estates measurements were made, in 447 measurements were tested, and in 260 settlements were concluded during the year under report. Of these 260 estates, one was redeemed at 25 years' revenue, four, comprising 8,527 acres of waste land, were settled for 30 years at a progressive revenue, and the rest were settled for a period expiring in A.D. 1892. The 260 estates settled during the year covered an area of 16,755 acres, and were assessed at Rs. 22,375, against Rs. 3,430 of the previous assessment. The average assessment per acre of the land settled, was Re. 1-5-4, or Re. 0-9-8 less than the average of the previous year's assessment.

There remained at the close of the year 158 estates, comprising an area of 154,294 acres, to be measured; 463 estates, comprising 73,358 acres, to be tested; and 411 estates, with 66,705 acres, to be settled.

The cost of the ilam settlement work during the year was Rs. 11,118, or at the rate of 10½ annas per acre settled, against 14 annas per acre in 1875-76.

43. *Re-settlement of other petty scattered estates in Sylhet.*—Of the petty mehals other than ilam under settlement in the district of Sylhet, 647 estates, comprising an area of 2,853 acres, were settled in 1876-77 at a revenue of Rs. 3,406, or at about Re. 1-2-7 an acre. The former assessment of these estates amounted to Rs. 1,828. Of these estates, one was settled in perpetuity, two were settled for one year, and 644 for a term expiring in A.D. 1907.

The petty settlement work pending on 31st March, 1877, was as follows:—

	Number of estates.	Area in acres.
Remaining to be measured.....	92	919
„ „ tested.....	91	7,213
„ „ settled	474	5,986

The cost of these settlements during the year was Rs. 6,122.

44. *Re-settlement of Jaintiá, in Sylhet.*—Of the 17 pergunnahs into which Jaintiá was divided by Lieutenant Thullier at the survey in 1838-40, twelve pergunnahs and nearly three-fourths of the thirteenth have now been measured, with the view to re-settlement. An area of 185,463 acres, comprising 14,689 tenures, was measured in 1876-77, against an area of 20,961 acres, containing 3,768 tenures, measured in the previous year.

Taking the total area of Jaintiá to be 2,80,000 acres in round figures, the area still remaining to be measured is 73,576 acres.

All the measurements made up to the close of the year have been tested, and Mr. Beckett, the Settlement Officer, hopes that the Jaintiá settlement work will be completed by November, 1878.

Satbank, Chowra, Bajeraj, Bordesh, Baorbhag, Chatul.

Proposals for the assessment of the six pergunnahs noted in the margin were submitted by the Settlement Officer during the year, and were provisionally sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner, subject to the confirmation of the Government of India. The proposals involved an unavoidably large increase of rates, owing to the almost nominal rates imposed at the last settlement. The Chief Commissioner, however, considered it necessary to reduce these rates, owing to the large increase in assessment involved by them, but proposed to conclude the engagements only for a term of five years. The additional revenue anticipated from the proposed revision of assessment of these pergunnahs is estimated at Rs. 85,313, an increase of 131 per cent. above the former demand, the increase being largely swelled by the extension of cultivation as well as by the enhancement of the rates. The proposals of the Chief Commissioner have received the sanction of the Supreme Government since the close of the year, subject to a report two years hence as to the working of the settlement.

The settlement work carried out in the Jaintiá pergunnahs during the year 1876-77 entailed an expenditure of Rs. 59,580.

45. *Settlement of waste lands in Cachar.*—The only settlement work in progress in Cachar during the year 1876-77 was the usual settlement of waste lands newly taken up for extending cultivation.

There were 853 applications for disposal, inclusive of 536 pending on 1st April, 1876, against 923 in 1875-76. Of the total number of applications (853) on the file, 566 were disposed of during the year, leaving 287 pending at its close. The area settled on the final completion of the settlements was 21,967 acres, bearing a maximum revenue of Rs. 15,995, against 20,070 acres, bearing a revenue of Rs. 15,027, settled in the preceding year.

Of the land newly settled this year, an area of 16,053 acres was taken up by tea-planters, the rest by ordinary cultivators.

There is only a slight difference between the number of new applications filed in 1875-76 and of those made in 1876-77, the numbers being 334 and 317, respectively.

46. *Petty re-settlements in Goálpára.*—In Goálpára the settlement of six estates was effected during the year by the permanent establishment at the Deputy-Commissioner's disposal. The revenue assessed

on these estates amounted to Rs. 1,055, against Rs. 681, the revenue due on the former assessment, showing an increase of Rs. 374.

47. *Re-settlement of the Eastern Duars.*—The last settlement of the Eastern Duars lapsed on 31st March, 1876, but instructions were issued by the Chief Commissioner for the conduct of the revision of settlement, and preliminary arrangements were made by the Deputy-Commissioner before the close of the year for carrying it out. A detailed account of the entire settlement operations will be given in the report for 1877-78.

48. *Annual settlements in Assam Proper.*—Annual settlements in Assam Proper were effected during the year for 420,022 holdings, comprising an area of 1,315,377 acres, against 396,870 holdings, covering an area of 1,258,277 acres, settled in the preceding year. The revenue assessed on the area settled during the year amounted to Rs. 22,74,368, against Rs. 22,10,988, the revenue assessed on the area settled in 1875-76. The increase in the area settled, and, consequently, in the amount of assessment, is due to the extension of cultivation.

49. *Ten-years' leases under the Assam Settlement Rules.*—An area of 10,304 acres, as shown in the margin, was granted during the year on ten-years' leases, against 8,062 acres granted on decennial leases in 1875-76. Except in Lakhimpur, which district shows a very large increase, there has been a falling off in the number of these leases.

	Acres.
Darrang	36
Nowgong	1,686
Sibsagar	724
Lakhimpur	7,858
	10,304

A ten-years' lease seems to offer little attractions at present to the Assam ryot, who finds in his customary annual pottah all the security of tenure he desires, without any responsibility for the future. The longer lease will ultimately no doubt become popular.

The measurement work and the compilation of the necessary settlement statements being performed by the agency of the permanent fiscal establishment at the disposal of the District Officers, the settlements in Assam Proper entail no extra cost to Government.

SECTION 3.—WASTE LANDS.

Special waste land lease of 1876.

50. The most important event in the land revenue history of the year was the abrogation, with the approval of the Government of India, of the rules for the sale of waste lands in fee-simple, and the introduction, in their stead, of a perpetual lease giving a permanent, heritable, and transferable right of use and occupancy in the land, with very favourable terms of assessment for the first thirty years. The rates of assessment for the first thirty years are as follows:—

Two years	...	...	free of revenue.
Four "	...	...	3 annas an acre.
Four "	...	...	6 " "
Ten "	...	...	8 " "
Ten "	...	...	1 rupee an acre.

After the expiration of the first thirty years, the land is to be assessed in accordance with the law for the time being in force in the district in which the land is situated, but no portion of it is at any time to be assessed at a rate higher than is then payable in that district on the most highly assessed lands cultivated with rice, pulses, or other ordinary agricultural produce.

The procedure hitherto followed, in respect to survey, demarcation, &c., previous to the sale of waste lands in fee-simple, is also adopted in the case of these leases. The sale of the lease is advertised in the local *Gazette*, and, in order that the transaction may be a sale, and not a gift, a price (one rupee per acre for the present) has been fixed. Besides this, royalty on timber, if there be any on the land leased, is realized at the prescribed rates, if the timber comes under the head of "reserved timber," otherwise, at rates proposed by the Deputy-Commissioner and approved of by the Chief Commissioner. These latter rates vary according to the varying conditions of the lands leased.

Generally, the land is leased to the applicant, but whenever there are more applicants than one for the same land, the lease is put up to auction amongst such applicants, and sold to the highest bidder.

The following table shows the area of land leased in 1876-77 under the New Rules, as compared with the area sold in fee-simple in 1875-76:—

District.	Waste land granted under the Fee-simple Rules in 1875-76.		Waste land granted under the New Lease Rules in 1876-77.	
	Number of applications.	Area in acres.	Number of applications.	Area in acres.
Cachar	.....	.....	1	69
Sylhet	.....	.....	1	1,121
Kámrúp	.....	.....	6	1,026
Darrang	3	2,449	7	1,517
Nowgong	4	957	32	13,795
Sibságar	6	2,579	5	1,019
Lakhimpur	16	11,080	9	4,314
Khási Hills	.....	.....	2	1,583
Total	29	17,065	63	24,444

The above statement speaks for itself. It is observed that 24,444 acres of waste land were leased during the year under the New Rules, against 17,065 acres sold in fee-simple in 1875-76. Besides, 268 applications, for an area comprising 164,623 acres, remained undisposed of at the close of the year. 13,795 acres were leased in Nowgong during the year under review, against 957 acres sold in 1875-76. The paucity of applications under the New Rules in Cachar—one of the most important of the tea districts in the Province—is explained by the fact that the planters there prefer, as stated in the previous year's

report, to take up land under the "Jangalburi" or cultivation lease rules in force in the district.

The total demand on account of the price of the leases, and the royalty on timber amounted to Rs. 32,956, *viz.*, Rs. 24,477 on account of the leases, and Rs. 8,479 on account of timber; of the above, Rs. 30,657 were realized during the year, leaving Rs. 2,299 unrealized on 31st March, 1877.

Grants sold in fee-simple.

51. With the exception of the district of Sibságar (where one lot was sold), no sales of waste lands in fee-simple took place during the year. The lot of waste land referred to above as having been sold in Sibságar was advertised before the promulgation of the New Lease Rules. It covered an area of 1,500 acres. The price realized was Rs. 12,050. Three waste land grants in the same district, sold in previous years, were surveyed during the year, and their areas and price adjusted.

Old Assam Rule grants.

52. During the year under report, 17 Old Assam Rule grants, comprising on area of 12,216 acres, were commuted to fee-simple at a cost to the grantees of Rs. 57,376, or Rs. 4-11-1 per acre; 7 grants, comprising an area of 6,284 acres, were resumed; and 527 acres were found deficient on the survey of certain grants, leaving at the close of the year 84 grants, with an area of 89,141 acres, on original terms, of which 51,176 acres came under assessment up to 31st March, 1877. The revenue-free term of the rest has yet to expire.

Jangalburi or cultivation leases in the Surmá Valley.

53. During the year under report, 24 jangalburi leases were issued to planters in Cachar, and four to planters in Sylhet. In 1875-76, thirty such leases, covering an area of 11,544 acres, were issued in Cachar, but none in Sylhet. The area covered by the leases issued in the former district in 1876-77 amounted to 16,053 acres, while the area granted under these leases in Sylhet in the same year amounted to 8,527 acres. The abolition of these jangalburi leases is in contemplation, as the Government of India has signified its desire that a uniform system of leasing waste lands should prevail throughout the Province.

Ordinary leases in Assam Proper.

54. 12,458 acres of waste land in Assam Proper as shown below were taken up for the cultivation of tea during the year under the ordinary settlement rules at the usual rate for faringhati lands, while leases for 80 acres in the district of Nowgong were granted, for special reasons, at reduced rates. In 1875-76, 5,596 acres at full rates, and 3,571 acres at reduced rates were taken up for tea cultivation.

Darrang	5,849
Nowgong	50
Sibságar	420
Lakhimpur	6,139
Total	12,458

SECTION 4.—GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

55. In last year's report the Jaintiá pergunnahs in Sylhet and the Eastern Duars were included in the list of Government estates; but it is questionable whether these tracts, which, while the proprietary right in them vests, it is true, in Government, are settled regularly for a term of years with the cultivating occupants on the ryotwari system, ought to be retained in this classification. In respect of this proprietary right vesting in Government, to the exclusion of individuals, the position of these tracts in no way differs from the general land tenure of all Assam Proper, and the ilam lands of Sylhet.

It will be better, therefore, to exclude these tracts from consideration as Government estates, and to treat under this category only the scattered estates in Sylhet and Goálpára, in which the proprietary right has been acquired by or lapsed to Government. There are 219 of these estates in the Sylhet district, with a current demand of Rs. 7,270, and 406 estates in Goálpára, assessed at Rs. 50,274.

In the district of Goálpára there was an arrear balance, due on the 1st April, 1876, of Rs. 8,732, thus making the total demand for the year 1876-77 amount to Rs. 59,006; of this sum, Rs. 49,547 were collected and Rs. 87 remitted, leaving at the close of the year Rs. 9,372 unrealized. The most part of this balance was due from the Sidli estate, which is managed under the Court of Wards. The cost of collection charges amounted to Rs. 113.

SECTION 5.—WARDS' AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

56. The estates to be reported on under this head are the same as were reported on in the previous year, *viz.*:—

(1) The Sidli estate in Goálpára.
(2) The estate of the minor Har Kumár Pál in Sylhet.
(3) The estate of the minor Guláin Armáni in Cachar.

Sidli.

57. The settlement of this estate with Rajah Gowri Narain expired on 31st March, 1877. The future management of the estate depends, therefore, entirely on the decision of the Government of India regarding its resettlement, proposals for which have been submitted in this office No. 1,164, dated 30th April, 1877.

Of the total demand of Rs. 43,007, on account of rent due to the estate, a sum of Rs. 25,904 was realized, and Rs. 2,489 were remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 14,614 at the close of the year. A portion of this balance is reported to be irrecoverable, and the remainder is in course of realization. A sum of Rs. 5,186 has been collected since the close of the year.

	Rs.
Current	30,046
Arrear	12,961

Adding to the rent (Rs. 25,904) collected during the year the balance of Rs. 1,334 in hand on 1st April, 1876, and miscellaneous

receipts, Rs. 10, the total income of the year amounted to Rs. 27,248, which was disbursed as follows :—

	Rs.
Government revenue paid	20,000
Establishment and charges for the collection of rent	1,965
Law expenses	26
Maintenance of the Rajah and his family	1,791
Education of the minor son of the Rajah	1,041
Miscellaneous expenses	321
Cash balance in land	2,104
Total	27,248

The estate is indebted to the extent of Rs. 8,349. Arrangements have been made for the early liquidation of this amount.

A sum of Rs. 7,685, on account of Government revenue, was also outstanding at the close of the year; of this amount, Rs. 5,186 has since been paid in.

58. The rental of the various estates belonging to the minor Har Kumár Pál amounted to Rs. 41,674, *viz.*, Rs. 12,627 current and Rs. 29,047 arrear rents; of this sum, Rs. 7,480* were collected, and Rs. 93 remitted during the year under report, leaving a balance of Rs. 34,101. The whole of the arrear balance is not now recoverable. The arrears of 1869-70 and 1870-71 had lapsed by limitation before the estate came under the management of the revenue authorities, and those of 1871-72 had lapsed in 1875-76, owing to the difficulty in instituting suits, in consequence of the old zemindari accounts being in a confused state. An adjustment of the collection accounts with the former sarbarakars has been completed, and the result has been reported to the Chief Commissioner since the close of the year. These accounts, however, do not supply the place of a proper rent-roll, which is still wanted. The Deputy-Commissioner is endeavouring to place the condition of the estate on a satisfactory footing, a matter of much difficulty. The annexed statement shows the receipts and disbursements during the year:—

Har Kumar Pal's estate.

	Rs.
* Current	751
Arrear	6,729
Total	7,480

Receipts.	Amount.	Disbursements.	Amount.
	Rs.		Rs.
Cash balance from last year.	7,350	Government revenue paid	3,446
Rents collected	7,480	Management of the property and the cost of collection.	3,427
Debts recovered	1,142	Law expenses	2,517
Sale-proceeds of moveables, &c	30	Maintenance of the minor and his family.	436
Refund of the excess amount drawn by a moburrir	1	Education of the minor	262
		Monthly grants, religious ceremonies, and other miscellaneous expenses	963
		Debts paid	1,847
		Cash balance in favour of the estate.	3,105
Total	16,003	Total	16,003

The whole of the Government revenue due from the estate was paid in during the year. Steps are being taken to reduce both the cost of management and the cost of collection to as low a scale as possible.

The minor is prosecuting his studies in the Government school at Sylhet, and the head-master reports his progress to be fair.

59. The estate of Gulam Armani is in a fairly solvent condition. Out of the total rental demand of Rs. 632,* a sum of Rs. 430 was collected and Rs. 29 were remitted, leaving Rs. 173 unrealized at the close of the year. Nearly the whole of this amount is reported to be realizable.

The estate of the minor Gulam Armani.

	Rs.
Current	512
Arrear	120
Total	632

Of the total amount* at the disposal of the estate, Rs. 206 were paid as Government revenue, Rs. 38 as collection charges, Rs. 94 for the maintenance of the minor and his family, and Rs. 104 as contingent charges. The contingent charges would appear to be high, but this is on account of an item of Rs. 86 paid to the old manager of the estate before it came under the revenue authorities.

	Rs.
Cash balance from previous year	97
Rents realized	430
Hire of an elephant belonging to the minor	45
Total	572

60. Besides the three estates noticed above, another very small estate in Sylhet, belonging to one Sheik Hilu Miyan, yielding a rental of Re. 1, with a sadar jama of 3 annas, was brought under attachment during the year at the instance of the criminal court. This estate has been sold since the close of the year.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

SECTION 1.—(BLANK.)

SECTION 2.—COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

61. Besides the general Acts of the legislature affecting this Province in common with the rest of British India, only one special legislative enactment has been introduced during the year, *viz.*, Regulation I. of 1876 (a Regulation for the peace and government of the Gáro Hills district).

This Regulation was proposed by the Chief Commissioner and sanctioned by the Government of India during the preceding year, and its purport and extent have been set forth in the report for 1874-75 and 1875-76, Part II.B., para. 9. It came into force on the 1st April, 1876.

62. The proposed Regulation for introducing local rates for roads and similar purposes in the Province, which had been originally laid before the Government of India in the preceding year, was again submitted for further consideration, after receiving such emendations as appeared necessary. Final orders as to its adoption or rejection have not yet been received.

63. The measure of introducing the Scheduled Districts Act (XIV. of 1874) into the Province was also a subject of correspondence with the Supreme Government.

64. Two Acts of the Bengal Council were also further extended to other parts of the Province. Act VI. of 1868 (B.C.)—an Act to provide for the better regulation of police in towns and for the conservancy and improvement thereof—was extended to the town of Dibrugarh in the district of Lakhimpur by notification in the *Assam Gazette* dated 17th March, 1877.

65. The provisions of the Gambling Act, II. of 1867 (B.C.), were extended to the towns of Sylhet and Jaintiápur.

SECTION 3.—POLICE.

Strength of the force.

66. The strength of the Assam police force at the close of the year 1876 was 3,374 men of all ranks. The permanent additions made to the force during the year amounted to 19 men.

The proportion of men employed on purely police work to area and population in the several plains districts is shown below:—

Districts.	Number of police.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Proportion of police to area (square miles).	Proportion of police to population.
Goálpára	264	4,433	444,000	1 to 16·79	1 to 1,680
Kámrúp.....	247	3,373	561,631	1 „ 13·65	1 „ 2,273
Darrang	188	3,413	236,009	1 „ 18·15	1 „ 1,255
Nowgong	123	3,648	256,390	1 „ 29·65	1 „ 2,084
Sibságar	160	2,846	296,589	1 „ 17·78	1 „ 1,853
Lakhimpur	136	3,145	121,267	1 „ 23·12	1 „ 891
Sylhet	359	5,440	1,719,539	1 „ 15·15	1 „ 4,789
Cachar	268	5,000	205,027	1 „ 18·65	1 „ 765
Total	1,745	31,298	3,840,452	1 „ 17·93	1 „ 2,200

The relative proportion of the principal castes or religions in the force is given in the following table:—

Christians	·65
Hindus	56·95
Goorkhas	12 18
Sikhs	·95
Muhammadans	7·68
Manipuris	2·19
Khasiás	1·13
Nágas, Gáros, and Kukies	6·08
Cacharies and Rabahs	11·92
Khamties, Mikirs, Burmese, and Bhutias.	·27

Budget grant.

67. The budget grant for the Assam police for the year 1876-77 was Rs. 6,03,866, out of which the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 5,91,599; thus, the cost of the police falls at the rate of 2 annas and 3 pie per head of the population. In Bengal, the rate per head is 1 anna 1 pie, while it is 2 annas 2 pie in the Central Provinces and 2 annas 3 pie in the Panjab.

68. The total strength and cost of the municipal police throughout the Province, as it stood at the close of the year, are shown below:—

Municipal police.

Districts.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Constables.	Total.	Cost per annum.
					Rs.
Goálpára	.....	.....	6	6	534
Kámrúp	1	3	36	40	5,940
Sylhet	.....	2	30	32	2,750
Cachar	.....	.....	9	9	933
Total	1	5	81	87	10,157

During the year under review, municipal police have been entertained for the first time in the town of Goálpára.

69. Sylhet is the only district in which village police, properly speaking, exist. A greater degree of attention was paid to the working of this force during the year, and some degree of improvement was effected in its organization. A fund was formed from the fines imposed on the village chaukidars, from which rewards are paid to the men of the village police who distinguish themselves. Measures were also taken to ensure punctuality in paying the chaukidars.

Village police.

The introduction of the Bengal Chaukidari Act into the district of Goálpára is at present under consideration. In Assam Proper, the mouzahdars and mandals perform, to a certain degree, the duties imposed elsewhere upon the rural police.

70. The system of patrolling rivers exists in the district of Sylhet only. The actual work done by the river police, as shown in the returns, is small, but the indirect benefit is considerable. Although but few cases have been brought to light by their agency, yet the almost entire cessation of river dacoities on the Sylhet rivers, where this crime was formerly common, may fairly be ascribed to them. Some improvement was effected in the organization of this branch of the police force during the year. Two additional outposts were established in the Nowgong district for maintaining the patrol of the Assam Trunk Road, and one new outpost was added in the Sylhet district.

Patrol police.

71. The separately-organized frontier police in Sylhet and Cachar continued during the year to prove themselves to be a most efficient and useful body of men. The police of the Nága and Gáro Hills remained on the same footing as before reported.

Frontier police.

72. More attention has been paid to drill during the year than has been possible formerly.

Drill.

The want of a good drill-instructor in Kámrúp has been supplied by transferring an officer from the Gáro Hills police force to that district.

The frontier police in Sylhet and Cachar have been regularly instructed in company drill and skirmishing, the manual and platoon exercises, and relieving guards and sentries. During the year, 100 men of the Cachar frontier police have gone through a course of musketry instruction and target practice.

Arms and accoutrements.

73. During the year new short Enfield and muzzle-loading rifles, with ordinary bayonets, were supplied to the police of the districts of Darrang, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur.

Buildings.

74. A new police station-house at Gauháti, which was much wanted, was completed by the Public Works Department during the year. No other new buildings were added.

The aggregate expenditure incurred on police buildings and repairs during the year was Rs. 12,086.

Deductions from the force.

75. In a force of 3,363 regular police of all ranks, the number struck off the rolls from all causes in 1876 amounted to 432, or 12·84 per cent., as shown below, against 412, or 12·33 per cent., in 1875. The resignations alone amounted to 5·20 per cent. The death-rate, 1·63 per cent., was low. Desertions amounted to only ·74 per cent., and occurred entirely among the Nága Hills police:—

	1875.	1876.
Resigned	4·87	5·20
Dismissed	2·56	3·60
Discharged	1·49	1·04
Deserted	·86	·74
Died	2·18	1·63
Retired	·53	·63
Total ...	12·33	12·84

The desertions and resignations are due principally, no doubt, to the inadequacy of the pay allowed to the lower grades. Rs. 6, the pay of the lowest grade of constable, is considerably less than that of a common day-labourer.

Enlistment.

76. The number of constables who enlisted in the regular police of the several districts of this Province during the year was 472, of whom 230 were hillmen. As in previous years, some difficulty was experienced in getting recruits for the Nága Hills police.

Judicial punishments under the Penal Code.

77. The number of convictions under the Penal Code during the year was four, against five in 1875 and ten in 1874.

Punishments under Act V. of 1861.

78. The number of officers and men punished under Act V. of 1861 is shown below:—

1874.	1875.	1876.
53	60	74

The following districts show the highest figures :—

Goálpára	20
Sylhet	14
Nága Hills	13

The number punished judicially was altogether 116, against 103 the year before; the number of those punished departmentally was 490, against 542 in 1875 and 648 in 1874.

In the districts below, the departmental punishments were numerous:—

Sylhet	81
Cachar	67
Goálpára	60
Darrang	58
Gáro Hills...	56
Sibságar	53

Cases of torture.

79. No charges of torture, extortion, or maltreatment have been preferred against the police of this Province for the last two years.

There were only two cases of misconduct which call for notice. In one a constable absconded with the contents of the station treasure-chest, and was ultimately arrested in Calcutta; in the other a sentry accepted a bribe from the prisoner in his charge, and allowed him to escape.

Good conduct and rewards.

80. Seven officers and men were rewarded by special promotion, 18 were rewarded by money rewards for energetic conduct in capturing absconded criminals, and 11 were rewarded by good-conduct stripes for exhibiting more than common ability and courage in the execution of their duties.

Education.

81. There are no police schools at present; the very small reserves at the head-quarters of most of the districts prevent their introduction, but the education of the men is not entirely neglected. The officers at the thannahs and outposts have been ordered to instruct those who show an inclination to learn to read and write, and, where the men have leisure. some progress has been made.

Summonses and warrants.

82. The statement below shows the number of summonses, warrants, and other miscellaneous orders served by the police during the last three years:—

Districts.	Warrants.			Summonses.			Other orders.			Total.		
	1874.	1875.	1876.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1874.	1875.	1876.
Goálpára	212	366	391	1,470	2,687	3,013	454	229	271	2,136	3,282	3,675
Kámrúp	383	593	318	967	1,047	716	303	617	538	1,653	2,257	1,572
Darrang	87	113	39	595	293	41	2,925	2,671	3,366	3,607	3,077	3,446
Nowgong	156	47	31	756	84	79	1,699	515	38	2,611	646	148
Sibságar	203	106	86	1,740	615	931	898	629	987	2,841	1,350	2,004
Lakhimpur	190	36	49	691	133	229	453	934	984	1,334	1,103	1,262
Sylhet	527	590	1,200	5,065	7,107	7,354	3,925	3,960	5,744	9,517	11,657	14,298
Cachar	401	451	133	3,587	3,040	1,464	1,367	1,370	1,812	5,355	4,861	3,409
Khási Hills	20	17	15	328	301	250	600	432	365	948	750	630
Nága Hills	18	16	10	40	20	..	231	40	1	289	76	11
Total	2,197	2,835	2,267	15,284	15,327	14,077	12,855	11,397	14,111	30,286	29,059	30,455

The result shown in this table is one that was not anticipated; for, instead of the work of serving processes having diminished, owing to the introduction of the new High Court Rules, it has in some districts actually increased. It would seem, however, that some error has been allowed to creep into the statements received from some districts.

Inspection.

83. The District and Assistant Superintendents performed their inspection duties during the year most carefully and thoroughly.

Conduct of the force.

84. The general conduct of the police has been fair throughout the year. There is, no doubt, a want of detective ability among the members of the force, a defect, however, in which the Assam police is by no means singular. Detective talent is always a rare gift,—and in this Province the difficult nature of the country, the habits of the people, and the absence of a proper chaukidari system, render success still more difficult of attainment. On the whole, taking into consideration the disadvantages under which it labours, particularly in the matter of the pay of its lower ranks, the force may be pronounced to be fairly efficient. A scheme for its re-organization and improvement has been submitted to the Supreme Government.

85. The following table exhibits the cognizable offences reported in the Province during the last five years:—

	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
Cases reported	8,582	8,313	8,861	10,201	10,900
Number of persons arrested	7,592	6,968	7,214	7,755	8,207
Persons put on trial	7,076	6,606	6,778	7,387	7,889
Persons finally convicted	4,145	3,788	4,102	4,476	4,886
Persons acquitted	2,711	2,602	2,419	2,574	2,659

During the year under report, 10,900 cognizable cases were reported, and 8,207 persons arrested. 7,839 persons were actually put on trial, and, of these, 4,886 were finally convicted and 2,659 acquitted. The remainder, 277, were pending trial at the close of the year, and 17 were otherwise disposed of, as follows :—

1 on bail.

16 died, transferred, &c., after commencement of trial.

1873	2,131
1874	1,999
1875	2,314
1876	2,497

The number of cases reported as false during the last four years is shown on the margin.

The number of cases accepted as true during 1876 was 8,850, against 7,887 in 1875.

86. The following statement shows the true cognizable crime, district by district, as compared to area and population, during 1875 and 1876:—

Districts.	Area.	Population.	True crime to area (per square mile).		True crime to population.		Persons put on trial to area (per square mile).		Persons put on trial to population.	
			1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
Goálpára	4,433	444,000	·13	·16	1 to 769	1 to 620	·16	·19	1 to 617	1 to 527
Kámrúp	3,373	561,631	·24	·29	1 „ 644	1 „ 575	·22	·22	1 „ 726	1 „ 739
Darrang	3,413	236,009	·21	·16	1 „ 323	1 „ 427	·20	·16	1 „ 338	1 „ 424
Nowgong	3,648	256,390	·11	·13	1 „ 608	1 „ 542	·11	·07	1 „ 618	1 „ 929
Sibságar	2,846	296,589	·42	·35	1 „ 291	1 „ 297	·27	·25	1 „ 383	1 „ 405
Lakhimpur	3,145	121,267	·12	·14	1 „ 319	1 „ 271	·15	·13	1 „ 244	1 „ 282
Sylhet	5,440	1,719,539	·52	·63	1 „ 615	1 „ 501	·49	·60	1 „ 636	1 „ 522
Cachar	5,000	205,027	·35	·25	1 „ 188	1 „ 162	·16	·19	1 „ 255	1 „ 215
Total	31,296	3,840,452	·28	·28	1 to 486	1 to 434	·23	·24	1 to 520	1 to 489

87. The following comparative statement shows, by districts, the number of cases reported and those accepted as true, and the number of persons put on trial in each district during the last two years :—

Districts.	Cases reported.		True cases.				Persons put on trial.	
	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	Increase	Decrease.	1875.	1876.
Goálpára	800	905	577	716	139	....	719	842
Kámrúp	1,368	1,418	868	977	109	....	778	760
Darrang	954	728	731	552	....	179	698	556
Nowgong	571	575	422	473	51	....	415	276
Sibságar	1,360	1,374	1,017	997	....	20	774	732
Lakhimpur	490	606	381	447	66	....	497	429
Sylhet	3,463	3,786	2,798	3,426	628	....	2,703	3,294
Cachar	1,197	1,508	1,093	1,262	169	....	805	950
Total	10,203	10,900	7,887	8,850	1,162	199	7,384	7,839

From this statement, it appears that during the year 1876 963 more true cases of cognizable crime were reported than in the previous year. It must not, however, be necessarily inferred from these figures that crime has actually increased; less crime, perhaps, may have escaped detection.

88. The proportion of false cases reported in the different districts is shown below:—

Districts.	Cases reported.	Struck off as false	Percentage of cases struck off as false to cases reported.
Goálpára	905	215	24
Kámrúp	1,418	468	33
Darrang	728	183	25
Nowgong	575	106	18
Sibsagar	1,374	417	30
Lakhimpur	606	170	28
Sylhet	3,786	676	18
Cachar	1,508	262	17
Total	10,900	2,497	22

The percentage of false cases was the same during the years 1874, 1875, and 1876, being 22 respectively.

Cognizable cases how disposed of.

89. 447 cases were pending investigation at the end of 1875; during 1876, 10,900 fresh cases were reported to the police or to the magisterial authorities,—total 11,347 cases. Of these cases, 578 were not inquired into under Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and 2,497 were declared false.

Convictions were obtained in 2,605 cases, or 31 per cent. of the cases reported true. In 1875, the convictions were 30 per cent.

Comparing the number of persons convicted with the number of persons arrested, the following results are shown:—

	Persons arrested.	Percentage.
1875	7,755	57·70
1876	8,207	59·53

These figures exhibit a slight improvement during the year 1876.

90. The statement below shows how the cases accepted as true were disposed of during the year:—

Districts.	True cases.		Persons.								Percentage of convictions to persons brought to trial.		Percentage of acquittals to persons brought to trial.	
			Arrested.				Convicted.		Acquitted.					
			By police, *suo moto*.		By order of Magistrate.									
	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
Goálpára	577	716	596	750	163	132	451	547	246	287	62·73	64·96	34·21	34·08
Kámrúp	868	977	461	469	339	324	419	434	347	306	54·20	57·10	44·89	40·26
Darrang	731	552	644	451	70	90	515	393	178	160	73·78	70·68	25·50	28·78
Nowgong	422	473	199	164	226	124	289	195	122	81	66·98	70·65	29·39	29·35
Sibságar	1,017	997	690	609	117	144	528	487	240	237	68·22	66·53	30·88	32·37
Lakhimpur	381	447	329	309	168	130	266	300	225	121	53·52	69·93	45·27	28·20
Sylhet	2,798	3,426	2,028	2,608	690	668	1,566	1,987	919	1,074	56·08	60·32	33·99	32·60
Cachar	1,093	1,262	623	709	165	179	411	543	296	395	54·78	57·16	36·77	41·37
Total	7,887	8,850	5,570	6,069	1,938	1,791	4,475	4,886	2,573	2,659	60·45	62·33	34·84	33·92

The percentage of convictions to persons brought to trial is highest for both years in the district of Darrang, and lowest during the year under review in the district of Kámrúp.

Comparing the convictions in the different districts, an improvement in the percentage of convictions to acquittals has taken place during the year under report in all the districts except Darrang and Sibságar. These two latter districts exhibit a slight falling off; but, notwithstanding this decrease, the final results obtained in these two districts are good.

91. The total amount of property stolen in the Province during the year 1875 was Rs. 99,791, and during 1876 Rs. 1,23,011. The value of stolen property recovered during the two years was, respectively Rs. 43,491 and Rs. 53,382. The percentage of property recovered to property stolen was 43 in both years; but in the district of Goálpára it was 68, and in Nowgong 84 per cent., which is very satisfactory.

The statistics regarding the different districts are given below:—

Districts.	Amount of property stolen.		Amount of property recovered.		Percentage.	
	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Goálpára	5,291	12,505	1,757	8,633	33	68
Kámrúp	10,170	10,895	3,177	3,834	31	35
Darrang	4,451	4,894	1,842	1,597	41	32
Nowgong	5,430	2,748	4,401	2,315	81	84
Sibságar	13,331	17,360	4,877	6,610	37	38
Lakhimpur	11,605	9,147	3,386	3,033	29	33
Sylhet	31,449	51,020	16,224	22,200	52	43
Cachar	18,064	14,352	7,827	5,160	43	35
Total	99,791	1,23,011	43,491	53,382	43	43

92. The following table exhibits the number of cases of each class of cognizable crime for the years 1875 and 1876 (exclusive of cases declared to be false):—

	1875.	1876.
Class I.—Offences against the State	363	421
„ II.—Serious offences against the person	607	541
„ III.—Serious offences against the person, property, &c	827	1,011
„ IV.—Minor offences against the person	948	997
„ V.—Minor offences against property	4,441	4,538
„ VI.—Other offences not specified above	724	784
Other special laws	73	111
Total	7,983	8,403

Non cognizable crime.

93. 12,134 cases are shown as instituted by complaint, and taken up by the magistrates in the plains districts of this Province during the year under report,

against 13,164 in 1875, or a decrease of 1,030 cases. The police were directed to make inquiry in 848 cases, against 959 cases during the preceding year.

The table below shows the results obtained in the past two years, 1875 and 1876:—

	1875.	1876.
Number of cases in which process issued	9,407	8,658
Number of persons who actually appeared	8,558	9 093
Discharged after appearance	725	695
Acquitted	2,344	2,417
Convicted	5,369	5,853

The results of convictions to persons put on trial is a little better in 1876, being 64 per cent, against 62 per cent. in 1875, and may be considered fair.

94. In the following table, the number of non-cognizable cases in 1875 is contrasted with the number in 1876, and a comparison is made between the number of these cases and the population of each of the valley districts of Assam:—

Districts.	Complaints of non-cognizable crime.				Population.	Proportion of complaint to persons.	
	1875.	1876.	Increase.	Decrease.		1875.	1876.
Goálpara	566	527	.....	39	414,000	1 to 784	1 to 842
Kamrup	1,385	908	.....	477	561,651	„ 405	„ 618
Darrang	604	617	13	.....	2 6,009	„ 390	„ 382
Nowgong	1,548	1,119	.....	429	256,390	„ 165	„ 229
Sibságar	1,014	1,109	95	.....	296,589	„ 292	„ 267
Lakhimpur	870	819	.....	51	121,267	„ 139	„ 148
Sylhet	5,422	5,275	.....	147	1,719,589	„ 317	„ 325
Cachar	1,755	1,760	5	.....	205,027	„ 116	„ 116
Total	13,164	12,134	113	1,143	3,840,452	„ 291	„ 316

There has been a marked diminution of cases in the districts of Kámrúp, Nowgong, and Sylhet, while, on the other hand, Sibságar shows a small increase. In the whole Province, there was one complaint of non-cognizable crime to 316 persons of the population, against 291 persons in the preceding year.

Crime in the hill districts.

95. The comparative table below shows the total number of cases which occurred in the several hill districts during the two years of 1875 and 1876, with the results of the same:—

Districts.	Cases reported.		Pending at the close of 1875.	Arrested.		Total.		Put on trial.		Convicted.		Acquitted.		Pending.
	1875.	1876.		1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	
Khási Hills	76	109	2	48	118	48	120	48	118	43	100	3	18	2
Gáro „	26	47	2	35	69	35	71	35	7'	27	56	6	12	3
Nága „	9	15	..	13	17	13	17	13	17	9	15	4	2	..
Total	111	171	4	96	204	96	208	96	206	79	171	13	32	5

From the foregoing table, it appears that crime in the hill districts shows a tendency to increase, or, perhaps, more probably the improved administration leads to more cases being brought to light than formerly.

171 cases, against 111 of 1875, were reported during the year, in which 204 persons were arrested, and, taking 4 persons that remained pending at the close of the year, altogether 206 persons were put on trial, of whom 171 were convicted and 32 acquitted,—the percentage of convictions to acquittals being 84, against 85 of 1875.

In the Khási Hills crime has increased 30 per cent. over the average of the past five years. The main increase is under Classes III., IV., and V. The offences in which the increase mostly occurs are lurking house-trespass and the like, in which the number of offences is nearly double that of former years, and ordinary theft, in which there is a large increase,—50 cases in 1876, against an average of 28 cases in the preceding five years.

The increase in the Gáro Hills is mainly under the class of offences against property. The Deputy-Commissioner attributes it to the extension of the district, which has brought many villages, inhabited by people much more addicted to petty thefts than the Gáros are, within his jurisdiction.

In the Nága Hills, as has been invariably the case, there has been little or no reported crime within the limits of the Political Officer's settled jurisdiction. The few cases that occurred were of such an ordinary nature as to require scarcely any comment. Most of the cases are cases of petty theft, and they nearly all occurred at Samagúting.

There has been a total increase of 31 cases reported, of which 21 belong to the Khási Hills. In the 80 cases reported during the year, 100 persons were arrested, and, inclusive of the 2 who remained awaiting trial at the close of the year, 102 persons were put on trial, of whom 86 were convicted, 15 were acquitted, and 1 died. The percentage of persons convicted to acquitted during the year is favourable, being 85 in 1876, against 83 in 1875.

The percentage of property recovered to property stolen is very unsatisfactory during the year, being 9 only. This has been owing to a single case of theft, which was committed in Messrs. Dey & Co.'s shop at Shillong. Out of Rs. 1,775 said to have been stolen, only Rs. 55 were recovered.

Accidental deaths.

96. There were 1,339 deaths from accidental causes in the Province reported by the police during the year 1876. The details of the causes of death are shown below:—

	Drowned.	Bitten by snakes.	Killed by wild animals.	By fall of buildings.	Other causes	Total.
Men	163	135	168	15	105	586
Women	99	41	25	1	30	196
Children	420	32	26	3	76	557
Total	682	208	219	19	211	1,339

The largest number of accidental deaths is again shown to be from drowning, and deaths from this cause are, as might be expected, most prevalent in Sylhet.

Rewards for killing wild animals.

97. The following table shows the number and description of the animals destroyed, and the total value of the rewards paid for killing them during the two years 1875 and 1876:—

Description of animals.	Number.	1875.			Number.	1876.		
		Rs.	A.	P.		Rs	A.	P.
Tigers	458	10,249	8	0	411	9,303	8	0
Leopards	150	740	0	0	174	776	4	0
Bears	68	157	8	0	46	113	12	0
Wolves	8	.....			3	15	0	0
Hyenas	1	.....			....	.....		
Other animals and cubs, including buffaloes	92	221	4	0	166	188	0	0
Total	772	11,368	4	0	800	10,396	8	0

SECTION 4.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

98. The criminal courts of the Province, with the exception of those in the hill districts, are under the supervision and control of the High Court at Calcutta. The Chief Commissioner has not, however, been favoured with any report or remarks by the High Court concerning the administration of criminal justice in Assam during the past year. The remarks herein must therefore be confined to a review of the tabular statements which are furnished to the Chief Commissioner's Office. These returns (Judicial Statements Nos. 2 to 5, appended to the Report) have been compiled for the calendar year, 1876, and contain particulars only respecting the eight plains districts of the Province, which are under the jurisdiction of the High Court.

There are no complete returns of the administration of criminal justice in the hill districts; but information as to the number of offences reported by the police, and the results of the cases tried in the British courts will be found at the close of the section on police administration.

99. The criminal courts in this Province during the year 1876, exclusive of the High Court at Calcutta, the highest court of appeal, were fifty-two in number, *viz.*, the two sessions courts, eight Deputy-Commissioners, who were all magistrates of districts, and all of whom exercised the special powers described in Section 36 of the Criminal Procedure Code, sixteen magistrates with first, eight magistrates with second, and eighteen magistrates with third-class powers, including honorary magistrates.

Statistics of crime.

100. The subjoined table shows the number of offences reported, and the number of persons under trial, convicted, and acquitted during the past three years:—

Year.	Offences reported.	Persons under trial.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Otherwise disposed of.	Remaining under trial.	Percentage of convictions to persons under trial.	Percentage of acquittals to persons under trial.
1874	19,827	14,013	5,055	8,638	32	288	61	36
1875	21,849	16,072	5,464	10,135	37	436	63	34
1876	18,696	17,175	5,686	11,063	26	400	64	33

Although there was a considerable decrease in the number of offences reported during 1876, as compared with the two preceding years, yet the number of persons actually brought to trial was greater than in 1874 and 1875. The increase in the percentage of convictions and the decrease in the percentage of acquittals are satisfactory. The diminution in the number of reported crimes may, the Chief Commissioner thinks, perhaps, be attributable to the generally good harvests obtained during the year under review.

Of the offences reported, 44 per cent. were under the head of "criminal force" and "petty theft;" offences of a graver nature, such as murder, &c., were, as will be perceived from the detailed statement appended to the report (Judicial Statement No. 2), not very numerous, amounting to only 1·1 per cent., while none of the following offences were reported to have been committed during the year:—

(1) Offences against the State.

(2) Offences relating to the army and navy.

(3) Offences relating to religion.

(4) Offences relating to thuggee.

(5) Offences relating to injury to unborn children.

(6) Offences relating to theft with aggravating circumstances.

(7) Offences relating to extortion with ditto.

(8) Offences relating to dacoity.

(9) Offences relating to criminal trespass, resulting in death or grievous hurt.

101. The following table compares the statistics of reported crime in this Province in proportion to population with the statistics of some other Provinces. Assam, it will be observed, exhibits the lowest proportion of heinous offences, compared to the total number of offences reported.

Name of Province	Population.	Total number of offences reported.	Against the person.		Against the property.		Other offences.	Proportion of reported offences per 10,000 of population.					
								All offences.	Offences against person.		Offences against property.		Other offences.
			Heinous.	Minor.	Heinous.	Minor.			Heinous.	Minor.	Heinous.	Minor.	
Bengal ..	62,706,774	172,930	2,632	50,283	1,593	70,536	47,879	27·5	·4	8·0	·2	11·2	7·6
Oudh ..	11,178,861	79,263	2,294	6,699	31,867	27,267	11,636	70·9	2·0	5·9	28·0	24·3	10·4
Central Provinces	10,826,321	41,865	1,329	8,712	5,006	15,141	11,777	38·7	1·2	7·9	4·6	13·9	10·8
Assam (exclusive of Hill Districts.)	3,804,216	18,696	248	6,739	171	6,347	5,191	49·1	·6	17·7	·4	16·6	13·6
British Burmah..	2,815,193	27,363	731	6,391	829	9,912	9,500	97·1	25·9	22·7	2·9	35·2	33·7

High Court.—Referred jurisdiction.

102. During the year 1876 thirteen persons were dealt with by the High Court in its referred jurisdiction, of whom two were acquitted and eleven convicted. No information as to the nature of these cases, nor of the punishments inflicted, appears in the return submitted to this office from the High Court.

Courts of Session.—Original jurisdiction.

103. Inclusive of the thirty-five persons pending trial from last year there were 184 persons in all dealt with by the courts of session against 211 in 1875. Of these, 3 persons were discharged without trial. 80, or 43·4 per cent., were acquitted, only, 75, or 40·7 per cent., were convicted, three were otherwise disposed of, and 23 remained awaiting trial at the close of the year. The result is very far from satisfactory. The Chief Commissioner is not, however, in a position to say how far the committing officers are to blame for this result. He is aware that the story told by witnesses at the preliminary inquiry differs frequently most materially from their depositions before the court of session. The past three years have, however, shown a steadily decreasing percentage of convictions before the sessions court. 52 per cent. of committals resulted in convictions in 1874, 49 per cent. in 1875, and only 40 per cent in the past year. In default of other explanation, the figures would seem to indicate considerable want of discretion, or defects in procedure on the part of the committing officers.

Of the persons convicted, 9 were sentenced to death, 3 were transported for life, 15 were transported for a term, and 48* were imprisoned, of whom 18 were also fined to the extent of Rs. 1,874-13-0. In no case was a sentence of imprisonment with solitary confinement passed by the court of session.

* 45 rigorous, 3 simple.

Original jurisdiction of magistrates.

104. At the close of the year 1875, there were 404 persons awaiting trial in the various magisterial courts of the Province. 6,019 persons were arrested by the police during the year; 2,255 and 7,994 persons, respectively,

appeared in obedience to warrants and summonses issued; while 466 persons appeared voluntarily before the several tribunals. The total number of persons before the various courts for disposal was in 1876 17,138, against 16,045 in the previous year, showing an increase of 1,093, or 6·3 per cent. The annexed statement exhibits how these persons were disposed of, and collates the previous statistics on the subject :—

	1874.		1875.		1876.	
	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.
Discharged without trial	2,143	15·3	2,163	13·4	2,030	11·8
Acquitted	2,856	20·4	3,251	20·2	3,573	20·8
Convicted or committed	8,692	62·3	10,193	63·5	11,135	65·0
Died, escaped, or transferred	32	..	34	...	23	...
Pending at close of the year ...	265	1·9	404	2·5	377	2·2
Total ...	13,988	...	16,045	...	17,138	...

Distribution of business.

105. The subjoined table shows in detail the total number of persons actually tried, the number of days occupied in each case, and the number of witnesses examined by each class of magistrates during the last two years :—

Class of tribunal.	1875.			1876.		
	Total number of persons tried.	Average number of days during which each case lasted.	Number of witnesses who attended.	Total number of persons tried.	Average number of days during which each case lasted.	Number of witnesses who attended.
Unpaid magistrates	859	4·6	1,900	660	5	1,857
Local and subordinate paid magistrates.	4,720	6·4	10,928	4,277	9	10,996
Full-power magistrates.....	6,684	6·4	15,939	8,336	8	17,455
Chief magistrates of districts (Deputy-Commissioners).	1,181	7·7	2,014	1,435	4	1,719
Total ..	13,444	...	30,781	14,708	...	32,027

It will be seen from this statement that the full-power magistrates disposed of the largest number of persons during both the years 1875 and 1876. During the year under review, 660 persons, or 4·4 per cent., were tried by unpaid magistrates, 29 per cent. by local and subordinate paid magistrates, 56 per cent. by full-power magistrates, and the remainder, or 9·7 per cent., by the chief magistrates of districts.

Honorary magistrates.

106. The honorary magistrates continue to be very useful in disposing of petty cases, and thereby relieving the district courts. As will appear from the foregoing table, they tried 859 and 660 persons and examined 1,900 and 1,857 witnesses during the years 1875 and 1876, respectively. No information is obtainable from the returns as to the number or results of appeals from their decisions.

Punishments.

107. The various kinds of punishments inflicted by the several magisterial courts during the past three years are compared in the following table:—

	1874.	Per cent.	1875.	Per cent.	1876.	Per cent.
Imprisonment { Rigorous	2,914	33·7	3,223	33·4	3,305	33·1
Imprisonment { Simple	68	·7	69	·7	150	1·5
Forfeiture of property	2	...	...	...	...	..
Fine { With imprisonment	543	6·2	778	8·	840	8·4
Fine { Without ditto	4,830	55·8	5,366	55·6	5,370	53·9
Whipping { In addition to other punishment.	47	·5	21	·2	41	·4
Whipping { In lieu of ditto ...	235	2·7	189	1·9	256	2·5
Total ...	8,639	...	9,646	...	9,962	...

Thus, it will appear that during the last three years more than half of the total number of persons punished were fined, and that 34·4 in 1874-75, 34·1 per cent. in 1875, and 34·6 per cent. in 1876 of the total number of persons punished were imprisoned, and that only in a few cases was whipping inflicted.

In only one case was a sentence of imprisonment with solitary confinement passed. The Chief Commissioner is of opinion that the power of ordering solitary confinement as an accompaniment to imprisonment might, with profit, be more generally exercised than it is.

Whipping is also a punishment which, considering the comparatively large number of cases of petty theft, should be inflicted oftener than appears to be the case at present. In 1875, out of all the convictions for offences in which whipping was awardable, in only 210 cases was this punishment inflicted. In 1876, whipping was inflicted in 297 cases out of all the convictions for such offences. The returns furnished by the High Court do not show, however, in how many of these convictions this punishment might have been resorted to,—some offences not punishable with whipping being mixed up in the returns with those that are so punishable.

Besides the above, 46 persons were ordered to give security to keep the peace, 1,202 were ordered to enter into recognizances, and 117 to furnish security for good behaviour, during the year under review.

108. The various degrees of punishments inflicted by the several magisterial courts during 1876, as compared with the next preceding year, is tabulated below:—

Degree of punishment.

Degree of punishment.	1875.		1876	
	Persons.	Percentage	Persons.	Percentage.
Imprisonment for 15 days	791	24	696	20
" 6 months	1,949	61	2,204	63
" 2 years	435	13	538	15
" 7 "	33	1	17	.....
" above 7 "	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	3,208	.....	3,455	.....
Fine, Rs. 10 and under	4,781	77	4,633	74
" " 50 "	1,227	19	1,427	22
" " 100 "	90	1	114	1
" " 500 "	44	.....	33	.....
" " 1,000 "	2	.....	2	.....
Above " 1,000 "	.....	.....	1	.....
Total	6,144	.....	6,210	.....
Whipping, 10 stripes and under	72	34	80	27
" 20 "	94	45	143	48
" 30 "	44	21	74	25
Total	210	.....	297	.....

It will be seen that 17 persons were incarcerated during the year for a term of seven years, against 33 imprisoned for that period in the previous year, and that only one person was fined in a sum above Rs. 1,000, and two only in a sum above Rs. 500. Nearly one-half of the persons punished were fined Rs. 10 and less each.

109. The entire amount of fines imposed during the year was Rs. 84,834-10-0, *viz.*, Rs. 1,874-13-0 by the sessions courts, and Rs. 82,959-13-0 by the magistrates. Of this sum, Rs. 71,418-8-1, or 86 per cent, were realized, and Rs. 7,299-12-8 were paid as compensation to the injured persons.

Fines.

110. 32,027 witnesses attended at the magisterial courts, as detailed in the statement appended to para. 105, and 843 witnesses at the courts of session, against 30,781 and 992 respectively in 1875.

Appeals

111. The result of appeals instituted before the several tribunals during the past two years is contrasted below:—

	High Court.		Sessions Courts.		Chief Magisterial Courts.		Total.	
	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
Number of appellants ...	...	147	674	624	517	394	1,191	1,165
Number of persons—								
Appeals rejected	...	14	93	206	77	47	170	267
Sentences confirmed...	...	57	392	220	262	193	654	470
" modified ...	...	8	77	67	82	42	159	117
" reversed ...	...	51	72	97	58	88	130	236
Proceedings quashed...	...	...	...	2	2	...	2	2
Further inquiry or evidence.	...	...	4	...	9	10	13	10
Cases referred	...	...	11	5	...	1	11	6
Appeals pending trial	...	17	25	27	27	13	52	57

It will be noticed that in the greater number of cases, amounting to 63 per cent., of the appeals instituted, the appeals were either rejected or the sentences of the lower courts were confirmed. In 10 per cent. the orders of the court of first instance were modified, and in 20 per cent. the orders were reversed. Of the total number of appellants, 147 appealed to the High Court, 624 to the courts of session, and 394 to the chief magistrates' courts. As compared with the previous year, the number of persons who appealed to the courts of session and the magisterial courts shows a decrease. Particulars of appeals made to the High Court during the year 1875 are not available in this office.

Trials by jury or assessors.

112. As noted in the previous year's report, all offences, including abetments and attempts falling under Chapters VIII., XI., XVI., XVII., and XVIII., of the Indian Penal Code tried by the court of session are tried by jury,—the rest are tried with the aid of assessors.

In 1876, 15 cases were tried by jury, against 11 in 1875; in 13 cases out of the 15, the Judge approved of the verdict of the jury. 75 cases were tried with the aid of assessors, against 59 in the preceding year; in 71 cases out of the 75, the Judge agreed with the assessors.

Summary trials.

113. The returns furnished by the High Court supply no information as to the number of summary trials under Section 222, Criminal Procedure Code, and no remarks can therefore be offered as to the extent to which this system of procedure is made use of in the Province.

SECTION 5.—PRISONS.

General summary of prison population.

114. The following table shows the daily average number of prisoners confined in the jails of the Province during the last three years:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
1874	1,169·24	38·38	1,207·62
1875	1,295·23	40 21	1,335·44
1876	1,435 16	52·57	1,487·73

The gross prison population for the same three years was—

1874	8,064
1875	8,409
1876	8,832

These figures show a steady increase in the jail population during these three years. This increase is, in some measure, due to the opening of new courts, and partly, probably, to the increased immigrant population of the Province. The proportion of convicted, under-trial, and civil prisoners confined in the Assam jails during the three years is shown below:—

1874.

Convicts	1,097·81
Under-trial	102 24
Civil	7·57
Total ...	1,207·62

1875.

Convicts	1,229·40
Under-trial	97·31
Civil	8·73
Total ...	1,335·44

1876.

Convicts	1,383·26
Under-trial	93·47
Civil	11·00
Total ...	1,487·73

It will be noticed that very few civil prisoners are confined in the jails of the Province. The decrease in the proportion of under-trial,

to convicted prisoners shown by this statement is satisfactory, as indicating greater expedition in the disposal of criminal cases by the several courts.

115. The following statement shows the number and disposal of the convicts in the different jails and lock-ups during the year:—

	Male.	Female.
Convicted prisoners remaining in jails and lock-ups on the 31st December, 1875	1,271	40
Imprisoned during the year	4,143	199
Total	5,414	239
Received from other jails and lock-ups	178	19
Total	5,592	258
Deduct transferred to other jails	657	35
" released during the year	3,603	166
" transported beyond seas	7	...
" transferred to lunatic asylum	1	...
" escaped and not re-captured	7	
" executed	5	1
" died	78	3
Total discharges	4,358	205
Remaining on the last day of the year	1,234	53

In the early part of the year special measures had to be adopted to relieve the overcrowding in the Sylhet jail. There was no necessity for similar measures in respect to any of the other jails.

116. The following table shows the criminality of the population in the several jails of the Province, according to religion:—

Religion.	Population.	Number of convicts admitted to jail.	Percentage admitted to jail in 1876.
Christians	1,947	2	·10
Mahomedans	1,104,601	2,018	·18
Hindus	2,679,507	2,184	·08
All other castes	52,876	592	1·11
Total	3,838,931	4,796	·12

The remark made in the report of 1875 still holds good,—that the class "all other castes" stands first in criminality, while the Hindu population supplies the fewest criminals, in comparison with its number.

117. The following table shows the ages of convict prisoners in the several jails of the Province during the year 1876:—

Ages of convicts admitted.

Ages.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Prisoners under 16 years of age	21	3	24
" between 16 and 40 years of age	3,909	181	4,090
" " 40 " 60 " "	587	24	611
" above 60 years of age	68	3	71
Total	4,585	211	4,796

The number of juvenile prisoners, it will be seen, is small.

118. The following table gives the proportion of males of the various classes, following the classification shown in the census returns, imprisoned in the several jails of the Province during the year 1876:—

Occupation.	Male population.	Number of prisoners in jail	Per thousand.
Of independent property	18,500	132	7·13
Agriculturists	897,716	3,114	3·46
Non-agriculturists	191,029	895	4 68
Domestic servants	20,841	213	10·22
Government servants	8,203	187	22·79
No occupation	852,052	44	·05
Total	1,988,341	4,585	2·30

The number of Government servants imprisoned during the year is startlingly large; no explanation on this point has as yet been furnished by the Offg. Inspector-General of Jails.

119. The following comparative statement shows the nature and length of the sentences passed during the years 1874, 1875, and 1876, respectively:—

Length of sentences.	1874.	1875.	1876.
Not exceeding one month	1,074	1,097	1,131
Above one month and not exceeding six months	1,488	1,887	2,400
" six months " " one year	231	704	496
" one year " " three years	160	499	533
" three years " " five "	35	141	116
" five " " " ten "	24	72	81
Exceeding ten years	.....	9	2
Transportation for a term	2	18	17
" for life	17	11	13
Executed	2	4	7
Total	3,033	4,442	4,796

The sentences "above one month and not exceeding six months" have largely increased, and those "above six months and not exceeding one year" have decreased, as compared with the year 1875.

Re-convictions.

120. Of the convicts received into the jails of the Province during the year, 219 had been once, 76 twice, and 49 more than twice, previously convicted and imprisoned. The percentage of the convicts who had been previously convicted to the entire number imprisoned during the year was 7·17 per cent.

121. The following table shows the nature of the sentences of imprisonment passed:—

	1874.		1875.		1876.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Simple imprisonment ...	64	12	89	7	171	32
Rigorous imprisonment ...	2,825	132	4,168	178	4,414	179

Escapes and re-captures.

122. There were fourteen escapes from the jails and lock-ups in the Province during the year; of the persons who escaped, six remained uncaptured at the close of the year. Eleven escapes were made from inside the jail walls, and three from outside the walls. Considering the large number of prisoners employed on extramural labour, the small number of escapes is a satisfactory indication of their being carefully guarded while so engaged. Three convicts who escaped during previous years were captured during the year under report.

Offences committed by the convicts.

123. The following statement shows that the number of offences committed by the prisoners during the year was as follows:—

Criminal offences	4
Breaches of jail discipline	609
Total ...	613

The punishments inflicted for these offences are shown in the following table:—

	Male.	Female	Total.
By Criminal Courts	3	1	4
By Jail Officers—			
Solitary confinement	16	...	16
Reduced diet	65	3	68
Solitary confinement with reduced diet...	4	1	5
Corporal punishment	180	...	180
Total ...	268	5	273

The punishments were comparatively high in the Sylhet and Nowgong jails. In both jails, the punishments were inflicted principally on account of the possession of forbidden articles. A system of fines

upon the warders in the latter jail proved efficacious in checking the supply of these forbidden articles. The structural defects of most of the Assam jails, however, render it comparatively easy for the prisoners to obtain these articles. These defects the Chief Commissioner hopes to remedy in course of time.

Education.

124. Out of the 3,546 prisoners admitted into the jails of the Province during the year, 3,372 were wholly ignorant, 112 could read and write a little, and 62 could read and write well. The daily average number of prisoners under instruction during the year was 41·58, out of a total daily average number of prisoners of 1,487·73. The clerical instruction imparted in jails is necessarily rather spasmodic, and the Chief Commissioner is very much inclined to doubt its utility.

Employment of convicts as prison officers.

125. The average number of prisoners employed as jail officers during the year in the different jails was 29·63, or 2·15 per cent. on the average daily number of prisoners. These men were employed as convict warders and work overseers. Out of the total number of men so employed, 27 were punished during the year.

The convict subordinates have generally worked well in the different jails.

No alteration was made during the year under report either in the scale of diet or the clothing of the prisoners.

Employment.

126. The intramural labour of the convicts in the Assam jails consists of weaving, baking, brick, and tile-making, oil-pressing, and husking paddy. In some of the jails, rough carpentry and blacksmith's work have been introduced. At Sibságar and Lakhimpur, the manufacture of cart-wheels was attempted, but the result has not been very satisfactory.

Classification.

127. It was not found practicable to do much to improve the arrangements for the classification of the prisoners; the jail buildings remained very much in the state reported in 1875. Until the structural defects alluded to in that report are removed, nothing more can be done than to separate the class of prisoners convicted of petty offences from the rest of the convicts.

Mark system.

128. Only three persons earned remission of sentence on account of marks gained during the year. The attention of the Officiating Inspector-General of Jails has been drawn to this fact, and the Chief Commissioner hopes that the mark system will be more thoroughly worked in future. Properly worked, it would prove a powerful agency in the maintenance of discipline.

129. The following table exhibits the jail expenditure and receipts of the last three years in a compendious form:—

Heads.	Expenditure.		
	1874.	1875.	1876.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Rations	43,846	47,017	50,353
Establishment	25,447	26,962	25,929
Police guards	22,517	25,042	25,506
Hospital charges	1,866	2,018	2,260
Clothing	3,566	5,052	2,528
Contingencies	5,488	5,815	5,815
Expenditure on jail buildings by Jail Department	1,929	5,194	3,131
Expenditure on jail buildings by Public Works Department	16,735	19,682	34,879
Cost of Jail Department Office attached to Chief Commissioner's office.	980	980	980
Total	1,22,374	1,37,762	1,51,381
Cash expended on manufactures	29,898	22,254	26,602
Gross expenditure	1,52,272	1,60,016	1,77,983
Cash receipts from manufactures	30,022	31,707	33,689
Net cost to the State	1,22,250	1,28,309	1,44,294
Gross cost per head on average strength	126	119	119
Net ditto ditto	101	96	96

The total cost of maintenance of the prisoners under every head of charge during the two last years is shown in the annexed table:—

Heads of expenditure.	1875.	1876.
	Prisoners, 1,335·44	Prisoners, 1,487·73.
	Rs.	Rs.
Rations	47,017	50,353
Establishment	26,962	25,929
Police guards	25,042	25,506
Hospital charges	2,018	2,260
Clothing	5.052	2,528
Contingencies	5,815	5,815
Public Works charges—		
Additions, alterations, and repairs to jails	24,876	38,010
Supervision	980	980
Total cost	1,37,762	1,51,381

The cost of maintenance exhibited in the foregoing table, divided among the prisoners who were daily in prison, gives the average cost per head of each prisoner in the subjoined table:—

Heads of expenditure.	1875. Prisoners, 1,335·44.	1876. Prisoners, 1,487 73
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Rations	35 6 10	34 1 6
Establishment	20 3 1	17 6 10
Guards	18 12 1	17 2 3
Hospital charges	1 8 2	1 8 3
Clothing	3 12 6	1 11 2
Contingencies	4 5 8	3 14 6
Public Works charges—		
Additions, alterations, and repairs to jails	18 0 0	25 8 9
Supervision	0 11 8	0 10 6
Total cost per prisoner under all heads	103 2 6	101 12 0

These figures are fairly satisfactory; the orders recently issued directed the purchase and storing of paddy, will, it is hoped, further reduce the cost of maintenance.

Manufactures.

130. The following figures show the results of the labour of the prisoners employed on manufactures in the different jails of the Province during the last three years:—

	1874.	1875.	1876.
Average number of prisoners employed on manufactures	548	528	506
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cash drawn from treasury	29,801	21,766	25,943
,, received	29,591	31,052	32,867
Value of articles supplied for prison consumption	5,296	4,638	9,962
Total	34,887	35,690	42,829
	Loss.		
Cash profit	210	9,286	6,924
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Average profit per head of manufacturing prisoners	9 4 3	26 5 7	33 5 8
	Rs	Rs.	Rs.
Outstanding debts at close of year	2,174	2,740	1,467

These figures show that some advance towards self-support has been made during the year under review, as compared with former years. This is satisfactory, in so far as the result has been obtained without any disturbance of the due proportion of penal labour.

Vital Statistics.

131. The following table shows the sickness and mortality in the jails of the Province during the years 1875 and 1876:—

Jails.	Daily average number of sick.		Percentage of average sick.		Deaths.	
	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
Goálpára	4·35	5·00	4 30	5·41	9	16
Gauhati	4·09	4·56	3·02	2·51	8	11
Tezpur	8 62	14·34	5 59	9·16	9	14
Nowgong	·63	2·04	1 16	2·51	1	1
Sibsagar	3·40	4·33	2·95	4·51	11	5
Dibrugarh	4·83	4 68	7·10	7·52	5	4
Sylhet	14·22	15 62	3 34	3 11	18	18
Silchar	8 32	5·02	8 94	3·95	1	8
Shillong	1·42	1·17	3·55	3·44	4	1
Total ..	49 98	56·76	4·20	4 25	66	78

The general health of the population of the Province during 1876 is said to have been below the average of previous years. Fevers of a severe and fatal type prevailed in several of the districts. The jail statistics have been affected by the same conditions. The average death-rate during the year was 5·85 per cent., against 4·92 per cent. in 1875. The sickness was heaviest in the Silchar and Dibrugarh jails.

Buildings.

132. The jail buildings remained during the year very much in the same state as they were during the previous year. A scheme, however, for enlarging and improving the Sylhet jail, the principal jail in the Province, was matured, and the immediate commencement of the work was sanctioned.

A sum of Rs. 38,010 was expended during the year on original works and repairs on account of the different jails, against Rs. 24,876 expended in the previous year.

Supervision.

133. There was no special officer in charge of the Jail Department during the year 1876, but all the jails in the Assam Valley were visited by the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner. They were found, generally, in a creditable state as regards internal economy and management.

SECTION 6.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

Original suits.

134. 19,779 original suits were instituted during the year, as compared with 20,811 such suits instituted in 1875. In the Assam Valley Districts there was a decrease of 366 cases, while in Cachar there was an increase of 287 cases. The chief decrease in the number of cases instituted occurred, therefore, in Sylhet. The Judge is of opinion that this decrease is partly due to the re-distribution of jurisdiction between the courts of the several

munsiffs ; but he attributes it mainly to the short harvest, necessitating the importation of rice into Sylhet:—"Large sums of money were therefore exported from the district, and the people were, in consequence, more chary of spending money on law suits."

If the two reasons given by the Judge are the true ones for this gratifying decrease in litigation, the short harvest must, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, claim the principal influence. The re-distribution of jurisdiction between the several munsiffs was made after very careful consideration, and Colonel Keatinge is not disposed to accept the Judge's statement,—that such re-distribution rendered the civil courts less accessible to the people than formerly. This re-distribution was, moreover, made with the full concurrence of the Judge. The mere fact of the sites of the courts being changed, independently of the merits of those sites, may very possibly have had some effect on the number of the cases instituted.

Disposals.

135. The number of suits disposed of during the year was 20,193, against 21,311 in the previous year. The decrease was principally in Sylhet.

There were 2,289 suits pending at the close of the year, against 2,490 pending at the close of the previous year. This decrease in the number of pending suits is satisfactory.

Number and value of suits instituted.

136. The total number of suits disposed of, concerning which details are given, was 19,839. In only 312 of these did the value in dispute exceed Rs. 500. The total value of all the cases decided was Rs. 22,70,269, compared with Rs. 22,95,168 in the previous year. The Judge of Sylhet states that in 1876 pauper suits valued at Rs. 1,30,000 were instituted.

Classification of suits.

137. There has been a steady decrease during the last five years in the number of rent suits instituted in the Province, as will be seen from the following statement:—

	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
Assam Proper	912	475	449	344	350
Goálpára	77	183	89	39	
Sylhet	978	1,016	987	934	892
Cachar	81	57	33	34	45
Total	2,048	1,731	1,558	1,351	1,287

In 1872 there were 2,048 such suits instituted, while in 1876 the number of such cases fell to 1,287. This decrease the Chief Commissioner looks on as satisfactory; it indicates harmonious relations between landlords and the ryots, light pressure of rents, and a prosperous tenantry. Cases of the small cause court class have increased slightly, but, on the whole, civil business has decreased.

138. The following statement shows the number of suits of each class instituted in the Province during each of the past two years:—

Description of suits.	1875.	1876.
Suits for money, &c.—		
Cognizable by small cause courts	15,519	15,345
Rent suits	1,351	1,287
Other ,, ...	3,940	3,147
	20,810	19,779

The detailed figures under the several heads call for no particular remarks, but it may be noticed that there has been an increase in the number of suits for small sums of money on written obligation, while suits for immoveable property show a considerable decrease. There were 22 suits for dissolution of marriage instituted during the year, against 6 such suits instituted in the previous year.

Suits how disposed of.

139. The following statement shows the manner in which suits were disposed of during the past three years:—

Year.	Withdrawn, compromised, confessed, &c.	Decided *ex parte*.	Contested.	Total.
1874	7,485	5,371	6,404	19,260
1875	7,816	5,645	7,850	21,311
1876	7,756	5,786	6,651	20,193

The proportion of contested cases during the year under review was 32·4 per cent., against 36·8 per cent. in the preceding year.

Applications to set aside *ex parte* judgments.

140. During 1876, 168 applications to set aside *ex parte* judgments were disposed of, 86 were granted, and 82 rejected. The corresponding figures for 1875 are 75 granted, against 87 rejected. The increase is entirely in the munsiffs' courts.

141. The following figures show the result of execution of decree cases for the past two years:—

Year.	Completely.	Partially.	Amount realized.		
			Rs.	As.	P.
1875	2,963	7 351	3,01,995	4	10
1876	2,981	8,149	2,55,459	15	7

The total number of decrees satisfied without execution was 977 in 1876, against 549 in 1875. The amount thus realized was Rs. 26,416 in 1876, as compared with Rs. 26,110 in 1875.

142. The following statement shows the number of cases in which coercive processes against the person or property, respectively, issued in execution of decrees in all courts in Assam other than revenue courts during the past two years:—

Year.	Nature of process.					
	Imprisonment of person.	Moveable property.		Immoveable property.		Orders under Section 248, C. P. C.
		Attached.	Sold.	Attached.	Sold.	
1875	115	1,003	380	1,896	705	2
1876	176	1,076	415	2,395	861	1

This statement calls for no remarks.

143. The number of original miscellaneous cases instituted, disposed of, and pending during the past two years was as follows:—

Year.	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Pending.
1875	2,586	2,621	348
1876	2,024	2,008	293

The work under this head has thus decreased during 1876. The reduction in the pending files is satisfactory.

144. The following table shows the average duration of cases in the courts of the Province during the year under review:—

	District Judges.		Sub-Judges.		Munsiffs.	
	Months.	Days.	Months.	Days.	Months.	Days.
Contested	6	11	1	26	2	4
Uncontested ...	.....	28	1	2	1	6

The results shown in the above table are not unsatisfactory.

Appeals.

145. The number of appeals instituted, disposed of and pending during the past three years was as follows:—

Year.	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Pending.
1874	1,347	1,394	206
1875	1,743	1,461	527
1876	1,538	1,643	433

The decrease in the number of institutions occurred in Sylhet and Cachar. The increase in the number of appeals disposed of was chiefly in Sylhet, but partly also in the Assam Valley Districts, but in these districts there has been a large increase in the number of pending appeals.

The ratio of appeals preferred to original suits tried on the merits for 1876 was 23·12 per cent., against 22·46 per cent. for 1875.

The following table exhibits the manner in which appeals decided on a hearing were disposed of:—

	Number.		Percentage.	
	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
Confirmed	962	1,137	67·2	71·4
Modified	74	126	5·27	7·9
Reversed	340	276	23 8	17 3
Remanded	54	55	3 8	3 4

In respect to the reversal of decisions, these figures show considerable improvement, and some improvement in respect to remanded cases.

In Sylhet 12·6 per cent. only of the decisions of the lower courts were reversed, against 23·23 per cent. in the valley districts.

107 miscellaneous appeals were instituted in 1876, against 101 in 1875 and 94 in 1874.

Local inquiries.

146. The number of local inquiries held in Assam in 1876 was 181, against 219 in 1875.

Cost of establishments compared with receipts on account of court-fees.

The following statement, taken from the High Court's report, would seem to show that the cost of the civil court establishments in Assam, with the exception of the Sylhet district, is far in excess of the receipts on account of court-fees:—

District.	Number of original suits.	Cost of establishment, including Judges' salaries.			Receipts on account of court-fees.		
		Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
Assam Valley	7,636	4,11,087	5	2	1,05,836	3	7
Sylhet	9,756	86,956	5	10	1,12,730	13	3
Cachar	2,037	48,228	0	0	13,395	10	4
Total ..	19,429	5,46,271	11	0	2,31,962	11	2

But, on further inquiry, it appears that this very surprising discrepancy is due altogether to the erroneous principle on which the

statement has been prepared. In the column showing "cost of establishment" has been included, in the case of the Assam Valley and Cachar, the whole of the pay of all judicial officers having civil powers and of all their establishments, whereas in these districts a considerable number of these officers and their establishments are engaged principally, and some, indeed, exclusively, on magisterial and revenue work, and have little or nothing to do with civil business. Very few are employed exclusively on civil judicial work. In Sylhet, on the contrary, the civil judicial establishment is altogether separate, and only its actual cost is shown.

The return, therefore, as it stands, is worthless. It would be necessary, in order to obtain a result of any value, to compile an approximate statement, showing the proportionate number of days devoted by the various officers and their establishments to civil judicial work, and the corresponding proportion of their salaries which should be debited to this head.

SECTION 7.—REGISTRATION.

147. The following table shows the work done by, and the financial position of, the Registration Department in this Province during the year under review, as compared with the year 1875-76:—

1	2		3		4		5	
District.	Total number of registrations.		Receipts.		Expenditure.		Percentage of column 4 on column 3.	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876 77.	1875-75.	1876-77
			Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P	Rs. As. P		
Cachar	1,668	1,907	1,624 8 3	1,968 9 9	1,745 9 11	1,785 5 4	107·4	90·7
Sylhet	4,915	4,713	9,644 3 6	9,412 0 6	6,746 4 8	5,912 11 6	64·5	63·1
Goálpara	471	738	718 3 0	888 0 0	1,224 3 0	1,160 2 1	170·4	130·6
Kamrup	438	557	753 6 0	9 8 15 0	1,125 9 0	1,026 14 8	149 4	110 5
Darrang	115	65	260 0 6	292 3 0	494 6 6	387 11 5	190 1	132·6
Nowgong	276	291	671 4 0	631 5 6	528 9 0	502 8 0	78·7	89 7
Sibságar	895	652	583 6 0	865 4 0	816 10 11	765 4 1	140·0	88·4
Lakhimpur	78	81	185 6 0	216 0 0	155 9 0	113 13 6	83 9	52·7
Total.....	8,356	9,004	14,440 5 3	15,202 5 9	12,836 14 0	11,684 6 7	85·3	76 8
Office of Officer in charge of Department.	....	....	.....	.....	916 5 10	796 4 3	....	....
Grand Total....	8,356	9,004	14,440 5 3	15,202 5 9	13,753 3 10	12,480 10 10	95·1	82·9

It will be seen from the above statement that in 1876-77, 9,004 documents were presented for registration, as compared with 8,356 documents presented in 1875-76, and that, while the receipts during the year under review exceeded the receipts during the preceding year by Rs. 762-0-6, the expenditure was less than in 1875-76 by Rs. 1,272-9-0.

The increase in the total number of documents presented for registration, though not large, is encouraging, while, from a financial

point of view, the results indicated by the statements are sufficiently satisfactory.

In 1875-76, five out of the eight registration districts were deficit districts, while in 1876-77 the number of deficit districts was reduced to three, and in these three districts the percentage of expenditure on receipts, which in the previous year was 170·4, 149·4, and 190·1, respectively, was reduced during the year under report to 130·6, 110·5, and 132·6, respectively, and the entire expenditure of the department was reduced from a percentage on the receipts of 95·1 to a percentage of 82·9.

148. The following synopsis of Registration Form II. shows a very marked increase (more than 18 per cent.) in the number of optional registrations effected during the year, as compared with the previous year, a fact which goes far to prove that the department is growing in popularity. The Chief Commissioner does not, however, think that the Province is as yet sufficiently advanced to demand, for the present at least, an extension of the rural sub-registry offices:—

Year.	Compulsory registration.	Optional registration.		Wills and authorities to adopt.	Total.
		Affecting immoveable property.	Affecting moveable property.		
1875-76	4,795	2,163	1,317	81	8,356
1876-77	4,981	2,411	1,529	83	9,004
Increase	186	248	212	2	648

149. The aggregate value of property transferred by documents brought to the several offices for registration was less during the year under review than the preceding year, as will appear from the following statement:—

District.	Total aggregate value.		Increase or decrease.
	1875-76.	1876-77.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar	2,65,448	3,47,885	+ 82,437
Sylhet	15,89,177	14,09,773	— 1,79,404
Goálpára	1,06,141	1,07,809	+ 1,668
Kámrúp	1,88,631	2,61,046	+ 72,415
Darrang	1,01,826	47,237	— 54,589
Nowgong	4,05,922	2,46,819	— 1,59,103
Sibságar	2,43,684	3,59,029	+ 1,15,345
Lakhimpur	90,653	69,949	— 20,704
Total	29,91,482	28,49,547	— 1,41,734

150. The miscellaneous work of the department during the year 1876-77, as compared with the previous year, is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Wills deposited.	Powers of attorney authenticated.		Registrations on payment of fine under Section 24.	Registrations on payment of fine under Section 34.	Applications for searches and copies.	Prosecutions (Section 83).	Commissions issued under Sections 35 & 38.	Visits paid under Sections 31, 33, & 33.	Receipts.
		General.	Special.							
										Rs.
1875-76	3	166	284	32	51	374	6	215	63	6,093
1876-77	...	193	278	47	76	402	4	212	68	6,513

It will be seen from this statement that the receipts on account of miscellaneous work amounted during the year to Rs. 6,513, against Rs. 6,093 in 1875-76.

151. No change was made during the year in the number of registration offices, nineteen, sub-divided thus :—

Offices at head-quarter station	8
Offices at sub-divisions.....	8
Rural offices	3

152. Four prosecutions were instituted under the Registration Act during the year. In each case a conviction was obtained.

153. The department was instrumental in bringing to light during the year a large number of insufficiently-stamped documents. In the Sylhet district alone, seventy-one documents were impounded.

154. The Officer in Charge of the Registration Department reports that the duty of inspecting sub-registry offices was more efficiently performed by the several registrars during the year under report than in the previous year. Owing to his being absent on leave towards the end of the official year, Dr. Martin was unable to himself inspect more than nine offices.

SECTION 8.—MUNICIPALITIES.

155. The number of municipal institutions existing in the Province during the year under report was the same as during the preceding year, *viz.*, the municipality of Gauháti, the townships of Sylhet and Goálpára, and the chowkidari union of Silchar. The station of Dibrugarh was declared a township under Act VI. of 1868 (B.C.) just after the close of the official year.

156. The income and expenditure of the municipalities has been as follows: The aggregate receipts for the year 1876-77 amounted to Rs. 56,609-15-10, against Rs. 39,762-13-4 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 16,847-2-6. This increase is almost entirely due to the fact that the proceeds from ferries in Sylhet, amounting to Rs. 10,556-2-9, were credited in the accounts of the Town Fund during the year, whereas they had been excluded from the accounts for 1875-76. The reason was stated in para. 348, Part II.B. of last year's report. The total expenditure of the municipalities during the year was Rs. 58,739-12-2, as compared with Rs. 40,378-13-8, the total expenditure in 1875-76.

157. The total receipts of the Gauháti municipality during the year amounted to Rs. 27,092-13-9, as compared with Rs. 25,972 during the previous year. The expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 26,968-7-10, against Rs. 27,006 in 1875-76.

158. The receipts of the Sylhet township during the year were Rs. 17,688-4-0, as compared with Rs. 6,179-6-9 in the preceding year. The cause of the increased receipts has been already stated. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 21,194-6-7, as compared with Rs. 8,969-14-6 in 1875-76. There was a large balance at the credit of the town at the commencement of the year, from which the excess expenditure above the year's income was met.

159. The receipts of the Goálpára township during the year amounted to Rs. 3,982-14-1, against Rs. 1,818-9-9 for the period between the 1st October, 1875, and the 31st March, 1876. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 3,509-13-9. The expenditure in 1875-76 amounted to Rs. 1,237-11-2.

160. In the chaukidari union of Silchar, the receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 7,846, as compared with Rs. 5,792-12-10 in the previous year. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 7,067, against Rs. 3,165-14 in 1875-76.

161. In addition to the receipts during the year, the several municipalities had the following balances to their credit at the commencement of the year, *viz.*:—

	Rs.	As.	P.
Gauháti	263	14	3
Sylhet	8,612	11	11
Goálpára	580	14	7
Silchar	16,121	0	0

The closing balances were—

	Rs.	As.	P.
Gauháti	388	4	2
Sylhet	5,106	9	4
Goálpára	1,053	14	11
Silchar	16,900	0	0

162. In lieu of the revenue derived from the land within the town limits, the following sums were assigned from Provincial Funds to the other towns of Assam Proper for the purposes of local improvement, it having been decided by the Government of India that the revenue derived from the town mouzahs should be credited under the head of "Land Revenue":—

	Rs.
Gauháti	5,000
Barpeta	500
Tezpur	2,000
Mangaldai	500
Nowgong	2,000
Sibságar	4,000
Jorhát	1,000
Golághát	800
Dibrugarh	5,000
North Lakhimpur	250
Jaipur	250
Total	21,300

163. No work of any magnitude was carried out during the year by any of the municipalities,—indeed, their annual resources are plainly insufficient for any but the most elementary functions of local improvement and sanitation. On the whole, however, the funds of these institutions appear to have been applied with rather more discrimination during the year under report than during the previous year. The aggregate amount spent on conservancy measures in 1876-77 was, indeed, rather less, being Rs. 6,775-13-1, against Rs. 7,496-5 2 spent in 1875-76; but the districts in which the expenditure on this object had before been plainly insufficient have shown this year a satisfactory increase in the money devoted to sanitation; while Gauháti, in which about one-fourth of the total expenditure had last year been incurred on conservancy, was enabled this year to reduce its expenditure under this head. The expenditure upon roads during the year shows a large increase, amounting to Rs. 18,509-13-5, as, compared with Rs. 9,016-8-7 in the preceding year.

Considering the smallness of the resources at their command the Chief Commissioner thinks that these institutions have been managed during the past year with a very fair measure of success.

The administration of the funds granted from Provincial revenues to other stations which have no municipalities is in the hands of the District Officers. The Chief Commissioner was glad to observe during his tour that these funds appeared in the stations which he visited to have been utilized to the best advantage.

SECTION 9.—MILITARY.

164. In February, 1876, the 35th Regiment Native Infantry relieved the 3rd Regiment Native Infantry at Cachar. The distribution of the military force in the Province remained much the same as in the preceding year, as shown in the annexed statement:—

Regiment.	Stations.		Strength.	
	Head-quarters.	Outposts.	British Officers.	Natives of all ranks.
35th Native Infantry	Cachar ...	.....	7	523
		Monierkhal ...	.....	50
		Noarbund ...	.....	30
		Jirighat ...	.....	23
		Mainadahar...	.....	23
42nd Assam Light Infantry ...	Gauháti ...	.....	6	600
		Tezpur ...	1	175
		Nowgong ...	.....	69
		Udalguri ...	.....	58
43rd Ditto ditto ...	Shillong ...	.....	6	682
		Jowai ...	.....	53
		Chargola ...	.....	46
		Alinagar ...	.....	46
44th Ditto ditto ...	Dibrugarh ...	.....	6	613
		Sadiya ...	1	127
		Pubamukh ...	.....	46
		Golághát ...	.....	39
		Sisree* ...	.....	24
		Dibong* ...	.....	14
		Wokha road †	.....	25

* On escort duty. † During cold season only.

Field operations.

165. The detachment of the 42nd Assam Light Infantry, which in the end of 1875 proceeded into the Nága Hills as escort to the Topographical Survey party, returned upon the 7th May, 1876. This detachment consisted of 72 of all ranks, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Tulloch. It attacked and burnt the Nága villages of Rechim and Changse, which were concerned in the ambuscade in which Captain Butler was killed.

Early in 1877, a detachment of the 44th Sylhet Light Infantry, under the command of Major Robertson, accompanied the party of the Great Trigonometrical Survey under Lieutenant Harman, as a protecting escort, to enable observations to be taken from two of the peaks on the lower ranges of the Abor Hills. No collision with the Abors took place.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION I.—WEATHER AND CROPS.

General results.

166. The weather throughout the year under review was, on the whole, favourable for agricultural purposes. The "Sali" and "Aus" crops of rice were moderately good. Other crops, such as jute, mustard, sugar-cane, pulse, &c., gave an abundant outturn.

In Upper Assam and Nowgong, the "Sali" crop suffered somewhat for want of seasonable rain in July and August. In Cachar, the rice harvest was more abundant than it had been during the previous five years. This favourable result is attributed to the heavy floods of the preceding year, which, after drying up, left the fields covered with rich deposits. The higher prices of the previous year continued, however, to prevail in the year under report.

167. The following statement shows the rainfall registered in each district of the Province during the years 1875 and 1876:—

Stations.		1875.	1876.	Average of six years.
Surmá Valley Districts.				
Sylhet	Sylhet	183·79	150·73	157·83
Cachar	Silchar	132·53	141·62	118 94
	Háilákándi	104·78	100·47	100 57
Brahmaputra Valley Districts.				
Goálpára	Goálpara	97·57	87·89	92 47
	Dhubri	91·64	94·50	93 15
Kámrúp	Gauháti	54·88	65 86	60 71
	Barpetá	96·06	113 22	97·61
Darrang	Tezpur	84·03	58 15	74 05
	Mangaldai	66·22	64 67	65·59
Nowgong	Nowgong	69 59	63 90	90 62
Sibságar	Sibságar	103·28	83 73	101 87
	Jorhát	84 54	70·27	81 88
	Golaghát	79 24	76·81	80·10
Lakhimpur	Dibrugarh	104 29	106·97	110·28
	North Lakhimpur	140·07	117·11	120·02* Average of 4 years.
	Jaipur	No record.		
Hill Districts.				
Khási and Jaintiá Hills	Shillong	100·21	98 00	83·98
	Cherra Poonjee	321·45	468·67	397·05
	Jowai	241·66	307·32	169·23
Gáro Hills	Tura	119·70	98·33	109 53
Nága Hills	Samaguting	59 07	53·76	53 43

From this statement, it will be observed that the rainfall was about the average; but the rains set in later than usual in Upper Assam and Nowgong, and the crops suffered to some extent in consequence.

In the district of Goálpára a rumour originated of a partial scarcity, but, upon investigation, the report was proved to be without foundation.

168. The cyclone which visited the districts of Eastern Bengal on the 31st October last with such deplorable results was felt slightly in the southern portion of Sylhet, which borders on the district of Tipperah.

At the point where the Tipperah Hills approach the Megna, some damage was done to house property, and thirty head of cattle and four human beings were reported to have died from the effects of the cyclone. It was also felt in the Nága Hills, but no damage was done.

169. The condition of the people is described as generally prosperous.

170. The prices of food-grains and other agricultural produce experienced very little fluctuation, and remained generally at the same figures as last year.

The accompanying table gives the average monthly rate in each district of rice, which may be taken as the standard staple :—

Districts.	Average quantities of rice per rupee during the year 1876-77.											
	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.
	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.
Sylhet	15 12	14 14	14 14	20 2	21 0	21 0	21 0	21 14	21 8	25 6	23 8	24 8
Cachar	14 8	26 0	24 8	14 8	17 12	20 0	20 0	14 8	22 12	22 12	22 12	22 12
Goálpara	16 0	17 0	13 0	15 0	20 0	22 0	20 0	17 0	18 [illegible]	16 0	17 0	20 0
Kamrup	13 0	12 0	14 0	13 0	16 0	24 0	22 0	17 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	18 0
Darrang	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	10 8	10 8	11 0	13 0	11 0	13 0	11 0	11 0
Nowgong	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	16 0	13 0	14 0	14 0
Sibsagar	14 0	14 0	12 0	12 0	13 0	12 0	14 0	14 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0
Lakhimpur	11 0	11 0	10 0	11 0	11 0	11 0	11 0	11 0	11 0	11 0	11 0	11 0
Khási Hills	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 8	10 8	10 0	10 8	10 0	9 0	10 8	11 8	11 0
Gáro "	16 0	16 0	12 0	13 0	14 0	20 0	18 0	20 0	18 0	16 0	16 0	16 0
Nága "	5 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	11 0	11 0	5 0	7 0

SECTION 2.—AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

171. As in the preceding year, experiments in agriculture and horticulture have only been made during the year under review at the Shillong model farm, but these experiments have been restricted to the small area of four acres of irrigated land. This curtailment of operations was rendered necessary, as stated in last year's report, by the

financial condition of the farm. On the 1st January, 1877, the services of the European Superintendent were dispensed with, and at present the permanent establishment consists of a sirdar, on Rs. 50 per mensem, and a chaukidar on Rs. 12 per mensem. On the above mentioned four acres of irrigated land, wheat, barley, and oats were grown. The late wheat sowings, as in former years, did better than the early sowings. The grain, however, owing to the elevation at which it was sown, did not ripen sufficiently before the commencement of the rains. In future the wheat sowings will be made at a lower elevation. Oats did not succeed so well as the wheat, owing to the poverty of the soil; but it was found to ripen earlier than the former cereal, a fact in its favour. A little barley only was sown, but what was sown succeeded well. Some high land which could not be irrigated, but which had in previous years been richly manured, was planted with English potatoes, which succeeded very well, the outturn selling at Rs. 3 per maund.

172. A kitchen-garden was kept up during the year, the vegetables raised in which found a ready sale.

173. The fruit-trees at the farm have steadily advanced in growth. They are chiefly valuable as stock to propagate from by grafting.

174. The live-stock, consisting of—

Hansi bulls	2
„ calves	3
„ cows	2
Bhutia bull	1
Khásia cows	6
„ bullocks	8
Manipuri calf	1
Khásia calves	15
English ram	1
Nepaulese sheep	15
„ lambs	10

did very well during the year, and the dairy produce is profitably disposed of.

The cattle are necessary to ensure a proper supply of manure, without which any agricultural experiment in the situation chosen is hopeless.

175. The breeding of pigs was discontinued during the year, and the English pigs were presented to the Seims of Maharam and Nungkhlow, on the understanding that they were not to be killed, but were to be kept for breeding purposes. It is very doubtful, however, whether the stipulation has been honestly adhered to.

176. The Chief Commissioner entertains some hopes of the experiments at the model farm attracting the attention of the native chiefs. Several of the Seims visited the farm when the grain crops were on the ground, and they were promised a supply of seed to carry out agricultural experiments with.

177. The receipts and expenditure during the year were as follows :—

	Rs.	As.	P.
Receipts	499	15	6
Expenditure	7,895	11	5
Deficit ...	7,395	12	11

Colonel Keatinge does not expect that the receipts will ever cover the expenditure ; but he hopes that now, the cost of supervision having been reduced to a minimum, something approaching an equilibrium will be attained in a few years.

SECTION 3.—FORESTS.

Forest reserves. Area and boundaries.

178. The area of the Government reserved forests has been increased during the year by 877 square miles. The forests gazetted were the following:—

CACHAR DISTRICT.

I.	The Upper Jiri reserve	24	square miles.
II.	" Lower "	14	" "
III.	" Barak "	67	" "
IV.	" Somai "	18	" "
V.	" Katakhal "	80	" "
VI.	" Dhaleswari "	33	" "
VII.	" Inner Line "	509	" "
	Total... ...	745	

DARRANG DISTRICT.

The Nowduar reserve ..... 82 square miles.

KHÁSI AND JAINTIÁ HILLS.

The Soipung forest..... 50 square miles.

The addition of these large reserves has been imperatively necessary in order to secure valuable forest tracts against the constant danger of injury from jhuming, which, in the Cachar district in particular, is a danger of serious magnitude, owing to the specially destructive habits of the Kukies.

Demarcation of forests.

179. The work of demarcation of forest boundaries was carried on vigorously in the Goálpára, Gauháti, and Cachar divisions. Substantial wooden posts are erected, each numbered consecutively, and surrounded by an earthen bank or mound.

The primary importance of this work of demarcation cannot be too highly estimated, and it is intended to push on with it as rapidly as possible.

Protection and improvement of forests.

180. The Forest Rules which had been sanctioned in 1871 for Bengal generally were revised during the year with special reference to Assam, and received the approval of the Government of India. They have greatly facilitated the protection and improvement of the forests.

According to these rules, all reserved forests are placed directly in charge of the Forest Department, whilst the open forests are managed by the district authorities.

181. The subjoined table shows the extent of the forest areas, reserved and open, in each district:—

Districts.	Area of forests.			
	Reserved.		Open.	
	Sqr. miles.	Acres	Square miles.	Acres.
Khási and Jaintiá Hills	50	32,000	.....	.....
Kámrúp district	48·55	31,080	.....	.....
Nowgong "	3·81	2,440	.....	.....
Darrang "	260 52	166,741	.....	.....
Nága Hills "	454·55	290,918	.....	.....
Goálpára "	416·39	266,502	6	3,844
Cachar "	745	476,800	.....	.....
Sylhet "	.....	.....	200	128,000
Total	1,978·82	1,266,481	206	131,844

182. The provisions contained in Parts IV. and V. of the Forest Rules were extended to all districts in Assam, except the Gáro Hills, Khási and Jaintiá Hills, and Nága Hills districts, and a list of the rivers, streams, and waters, which are to be kept open for the transport of forest produce, was published under Rule 15.

183. The forests have been very effectually protected from fire during the year. Although this result is partly to be attributed to the frequent showers of rain during the past season, it is chiefly due to the great efforts made by forest and civil officers, and to the fact that the people generally are becoming better acquainted with the rules on this subject. No attempts were made during the year by the ryots to surreptitiously cultivate any portion of the forest reserves. Ordinary trespass is rare, as the ryots can procure what forest produce they require outside the reserves free of payment. Owing, however, to the weakness of the permanent forest establishment, many trespasses are doubtless undiscovered.

184. Creeper-cutting operations were confined during the year to the sâl forests in the Gauháti division, where 1,500 acres were thus cleared at a total cost of Rs. 308-3-9.

Rubber plantation.

185. The extensions in caoutchouc plantations during the year were the following:—

At the Charduar plantation	.....	110 acres.
„ Kulsi „	.....	10 „
Total	.....	120 „

The growth of the rubber-trees has been satisfactory in both places; but deer have again, as in the previous year, caused considerable damage, necessitating the construction of more substantial and expensive fencing. A new nursery for raising young rubber-trees, both from cuttings and seed, measuring two acres, was prepared in the Charduar plantation, as an unusually high flood had inundated the old nurseries during the previous summer, and had destroyed most of the seedlings.

The number of young trees raised in the new nursery during the year was as following:—

From seedlings	8,048
From cuttings	3,052

As regards the method of planting these trees, it became more than ever evident during the year that rubber-trees will thrive better if planted on small mounds on piles of wood, or on stumps, than when planted on level ground, and trees will in future be planted in accordance with the teachings of experience.

As rubber-trees two years old bear transplantation very much better than younger ones, it is not intended to further extend the plantation until an ample supply of trees of that age is available.

Thirteen plants of the para-caoutchouc tree were received during the year; but the climate of Assam appears to be too cold for them, and they all perished.

186. The work in the timber plantations at the Kulsi was confined to the filling up of the vacancies, so as to get the area already started completely stocked.

In the Shillong plantation, the following conifers were planted successfully, but the growth of some of the species has been very slow up to the present:—

Cedrus deodora.	Pinus Austriaca.
Abies Smithiana.	Pinus maritima.
Pinus excelsa.	Cryptomeria Japonica.

All the trees of the *Eucalyptus globulus*, with one or two exceptions, were killed by frost during the cold weather, but the *Eucalyptus rostratus* seems hardier, and has done much better, although, even for this species, the land and locality of the plantation seem less favourable than some of the private gardens in Shillong.

Buildings.

187. Due attention has been paid to the providing of better shelter for the officers of the department. The forest inspection-house at the Bhoirabi depôt, in the Tezpur division, was completed, and the building of another inspection bungalow at Dhubri, in the Goálpára division, was pushed forward nearly to completion within the year.

Yield and working.

188. The timber from the reserve forests is either worked out by Government agency or by purchasers. In the Gauháti, Tezpur, and Golághát forest divisions nearly all the timber is worked out by the department, since no timber traders come to these forests from Bengal, and the local demand is small, and can easily be supplied by the department. In the Goálpára and Cachar divisions, on the contrary, there has been a large timber trade existing for many years past, and woodcutters have always been in the habit of working out timber on their own account. This system it was deemed advisable to continue, since much of the time of the divisional officers, and of their subordinate establishments, is taken up in general protection, survey, and demarcation work, and the working of these forests by the department direct is at present impracticable on account of the weakness of the establishments.

The number of trees felled through the agency of the department was as follows :—

Goálpára division	...	...	...	166
Gauháti "	...	...	...	711
Tezpur "	...	...	...	335
Golághát "	...	...	...	200
			Total ...	1,412

The number of trees sold standing in the reserved forests has increased from 121 in 1875-76 to 523 in 1876-77. These trees are almost exclusively used for building boats or dug-outs.

In the Goálpára division, 21,813 pieces of dead sâl-wood were worked out by the Mech duffadars, 17,513 of which were sold. This wood is collected and stocked in the Government timber depôts for sale, and the revenue due on account of it is realized from the duffadars at the time of sale.

The number of licenses granted in the Cachar division was as follows :—

(1)	Licenses for elephants to drag timber ...	Rs.	77
(2)	Licenses to cut timber, bamboos, canes and grass	"	1,511

189. The undermentioned forest produce passed and paid toll at Sealtek, in Cachar :—

Logs.			Posts and planks.			Bamboos.		Canes.		Grass.		Charcoal.	
Number.	Cubic contents.	Amount.	Number.	Cubic contents.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number of bundles.	Amount.	Number of rafts.	Amount.	Number of maunds.	Amount.
		Rs. As			Rs. As. P.		Rs. As.		Rs. As. P.		Rs.		Rs. As.
2,934	52,565	7,181 14	618	710	207 1 3	234,350	292 15	10,718	163 13 5	142	355	308	38 8

The quantities of material from private forests which passed the toll-station free were as follows:—

Logs.	Posts and planks.	Bamboos.	Canes.	Grass.
2 685	349	60	1,008 bndls.	1 raft.

190. For the convenience of purchasers, selection of timber in the Forest Department depôts in Assam is permitted at an extra charge of 25 per cent.

191. Sample sleepers of the undermentioned five kinds of wood were sent to the Northern Bengal State Railway for trial, and the Engineer-in-Chief has promised to keep the Forest Department informed as regards their durability :—

Ajhur or Jarool.—Lagerstrœmia Reginæ.
Gunserai.—Cinnamomum glanduliferum.
Sidah.—Lagerstrœmia parviflora.
Sam.—Artocarpus chaplasha.
Nahor Nagessur.—Mesua ferrea.

Cultivation of bamboos for paper-making.

192. Although the production of bamboo fit for paper stock on plantations at a sufficiently low rate seems to be impossible in Assam, on account of the cost of labour, still, there are indigenous bamboo forests very accessible, and otherwise well suited for an experiment in the manufacture of paper stock,—as, for instance, the forests on the Gauháti and Shillong road between Burnihát and Nongpoh.

Unreserved or open forests.

193. The topographical and valuation surveys in the Sidli forest were carried on vigorously, but were not sufficiently advanced by the end of the year to enable that forest to be declared a Government reserve.

Valuation surveys were carried out and completed in the following two blocks :—

Total area in acres.	Area valued in acres.	Percentage of area valued.
	Maligaon Block.	
8,873	376·2	4·23
	Bansbari Block.	
7,727	354·3	4·58

The area of the different classes of forests in the two blocks surveyed is as follows :—

Maligaon Block.

	Acres.
Sâl forest	4,580
Lower-hill forest	625
Grass land	3,668
Total ...	8,873

Bansbari Block.

Sâl forest	4,344
Lower-hill forest	349
Grass land	3,034
Total ...	7,727

194. The investigation of the claims of certain holders of permanently-settled estates, and of certain holders of ilam lands, to large tracts of forest near Chargola, in the Sylhet district, was carried out by a settlement officer and a forest officer conjointly, who met on the spot. It was decided that no private rights existed in these forests, and that no privileges had been granted in them to anyone. These forests have since the end of the year been gazetted as Government open forests, and will be managed by the Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet.

195. A further examination of the forests in the Lakhimpur district, with a view to defining the boundaries of those tracts which were to be declared Government forests, was carried out, and proposals submitted, which are under the consideration of the Chief Commissioner.

196. A most important measure of forest conservancy with regard to the Khási Hills was inaugurated during the year. A great number of small forest tracts have been selected and set aside to supply the requirements of the people of each State, the duty of conserving these forests devolving on the seims and the people.

List of reserved trees.

197. The list of reserved trees in Assam was revised, and three separate, and much smaller, lists were made out for the Lower and Upper Assam and the Sylhet and Cachar divisions, respectively. This revised list, together with revised rules for the felling of trees, the making of charcoal, and the cutting of firewood, has received the approval of the Chief Commissioner since the close of the year.

198. Inquiries were instituted during the year as to the feasibility of raising a revenue from indigenous lac, and in regard to the production and manufacture of dye-stuffs, and reports were submitted on both these subjects.

199. The timber from the unreserved forests under civil officers, except in the Gáro Hills, is worked out by the purchasers on permits

granted by the Deputy-Commissioners, on pre-payment of the price of the produce they wish to remove. In the Gáro Hills, the timber and other produce are collected in certain timber-markets, where the revenue due on account of such produce is paid to the officer deputed by the Deputy-Commissioner to collect it. An account of the yield in material of the unreserved forests cannot be given at present, but it is hoped that, with the changes introduced in the keeping of forest accounts by district officers, this information will be available for the report of 1877-78. For the year under notice, the amount realized is the only indication of the quantity of material removed. Realizations were as follows :—

	Rs.	As.	P.
Cachar district	5,936	0	0
Darrang „	6,123	7	2
Gáro Hills „	9,785	9	3
Kámrúp „	7,178	8	0
Khási Hills „	773	0	0
Lakhimpur „	2,992	10	0
Nága Hills „	42	0	0
Nowgong „	3,867	2	0
Sibságar „	5,647	13	0
Total ...	42,346	1	5

Financial results.

200. The following statement exhibits the forest receipts of the year under notice, as compared with those of the previous year :—

Receipts, 1875-76. Rs.	Receipts, 1876-77. Rs.	Decrease, 1876-77. Rs.
1,07,301	81,568	25,733

This falling off in forest revenue is not an actual decrease. It is attributable to a transfer of the revenue derived from "Elephant-catching" and "Soom forests" from the head "Forest revenue" to the head "Miscellaneous land revenue," which transfer was made in accordance with the orders of Government, in the Financial Department.

201. The expenditure during the year under notice, as compared with that of the previous year, is shown in detail in the following statement:—

Budget Heads.	1875-76.			1876-77.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
A. Conservancy and works	33,186	7	1	42,004	8	5	13,815	7	5	4,997	6	1
B. Establishments	28,697	4	7	47,015	3	4	19,217	14	9	.....		
Total	61,883	11	8	89,019	11	9	33,033	6	2	4,997	6	1

202. The distribution of receipts and expenditure in the different divisions is shown in the following table :—

Name of division.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.
	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Direction	7,755 10 6	16,663 13 4	.....	8,908 2 10
Gauhati division	2,983 1 0	15,355 14 3	.....	12,372 13 3
Tezpur "	3,204 0 1	23,180 0 3	.....	19,976 0 2
Goálghát "	657 11 0	3,039 5 1	.....	2,381 10 1
Goálpara "	14,363 4 0	16,136 3 6	.....	1,772 15 6
Cachar "	10,258 6 8	9,581 13 6	676 9 2	.....
Civil officers	42,346 1 5	5,962 9 10	36,383 7 7	.....
Total	81,568 2 8	89,919 11 9	37,060 0 9	45,111 9 10

As was the case last year, and as will be the case for some years to come, the greater portion of the revenue realized during the year under review was realized by district officers. Still, if the above figures are compared with those of the previous year, it will be seen that the revenue collected direct by forest officers has increased from Rs. 10,913 in 1875-76 to Rs. 39,222 in 1876-77, and that one of the divisions, Cachar, shows a small surplus of income above expenditure.

SECTION 4.—MINES AND MINERALS.

203. There is nothing to add under this head to the information given in both parts of the Report for 1874-75 and 1875-76.

204. The question of the gold-washings in the streams of the Assam Valley attracted the attention of the Chief Commissioner during the year, and, upon the receipt of reports called for from the district officers, the following memorandum was compiled by his order, and published in the *Assam Gazette* for general information.

Memorandum.—The earliest reference to these gold-washings which appears to be discoverable among the official records occurs in a letter from Captain H. Vetch, Political Agent, Upper Assam, to Major F. Jenkins, Agent, Governor-General, North-East Frontier, dated the 19th March, 1851. Captain Vetch, in this letter, reports the results of an inquiry he had made, respecting the complaints of eleven parties of gold-washers as to the extortions committed upon them by the Abors and Miris whenever they resorted to the Dihong in search of gold. In para. 2 of his letter, Captain Vetch writes as follows:—

"I may here explain that all gold-washers under the Assam Government were taxed at Rs. 5 each; and, since that tax was abolished and the land revenue introduced, the right of washing for gold in the numerous streams which flow into this district has been farmed to the highest bidders (who make their own arrangements for their share of the profits); among these is the Dihong, the right of gold-washings in which was * for the current year rented for Rs. 80.

"From the point where this immense river issues from the hills to its junction with the Brahmaputra the distance is little more than twenty miles, and the favourite localities for gold-washing are from twelve to seventeen miles from its mouth."

* The quantity of gold at present annually obtained from the Dihong is probably not more than 40 or 50 tolas, yet it and other rivers afford a ready resource to the ryots of those parts for raising the sum they may require to pay their rents, and could, of course, yield much more if the washing was extensively carried on, and for a longer period, the gold-washers seldom extending their operations over fifteen days at a time.

In June, 1853, Major Hannay, commanding the forces in Upper Assam, wrote a valuable paper entitled "Notes on the Gold-fields of Assam." This note, however, with the exception of the first two paras., is confined to a general geological description of the Assam Valley and the mountain ranges which close it in, and does not contain any very precise information on the subject under notice. The first two paras., however, in which mention is made of the traditional gold-produce of the country, are extracted. Major Hannay says—

"Although it is well authenticated that the produce of the gold-washings in Assam, particularly Upper Assam, formed a very considerable source of revenue to the Assam Government of former days, no correct data can be obtained so as to give an idea of the exact amount of gold realized yearly. But, as the Sontals, or gold-washers, one of the constituted khele or sections of the inhabitants (according to occupation), who paid their taxes in gold, form a large portion of the population, we may reckon on its having been something considerable, when in the northern district of Sadiya alone, including Lakhimpur, these Sonwal paiks amounted to 10,000. Allowing, therefore, that every paik, at the lowest rate, supplied 4 annas weight of gold-dust yearly, the total amount would be 40,000 grs. for that district alone; and, as the same system of gold-washing obtained in the districts of the south bank of the Brahmaputra, as much more may have been there realized; and it may not be perhaps beyond the mark, to note the yearly produce of gold-washing in Assam, in former times, as amounting to £8,000 or £10,000 sterling.

"In the short account of Assam given at the end of Volume III. of Montgomery Martin's 'Sketches of Eastern India' in enumerating the rivers on the north bank of the Burhamputra, the whole of them are said to contain gold in their sands; and the Subanshiri, Dikrang, Borpani, Booragong, and Boargon rivers of the Lakhimpur and Kullungpore districts are noted each as to the quality and quantity of their gold; but other small rivers in the Lakhimpur district—the more prolific sources of the Dihong, the Diboug, or the Brahmaputra—are not alluded to, neither is the Dehing or any one river on the south bank mentioned, which shows that the information relative to the extent of the gold-fields was imperfect. Chapter III., however, of the same notice, under head 'Commerce of Assam,' states that the Assam Government received into the Royal Treasury 1,500 grs. weight of gold yearly from a gold-mine called Pakerguri, situated at the confluence of the Dhansiri river with the Brahmaputra. The Pakerguri is a small river rising in the Rengma mountains joining the Dhansiri, a day's journey within its confluence with the Brahmaputra. I cannot vouch for the correctness of the statement given regarding the gold-mine, but this small river is known in its upper course to be a prolific gold-stream in the present day. It is stated also that the imports at Goálpára from Bengal in 1808-09, amounting to two-and-a-quarter lakhs of rupees, were paid in gold from these resources, and in silver. A good deal has been already written on the gold statistics of Assam, as they are known in modern times (*vide* Vol. VII., p. 625), and little more can be said beyond the personal knowledge which has been obtained of the wide extent of the existence of the precious metal, and that in some of the districts in North-East Assam it is now a profitable source of payment of revenue to the Sonwal ryots. The Lakhimpur and Sadiya districts produced in 1851-52 ten seers of pure gold,—the selling rate to the Kyah traders being from Rs. 14 to 15 per tolah of solid gold prepared by melting with quicksilver."

In the concluding para. of his Note, Major Hannay describes the method in use among the Assamese for extracting the gold-dust. He says:—

"The Assamese generally wash in a trough, and take the whole stuff in the rough, the finer sand, &c., being washed in the trough through a bamboo grating or sieve placed at the higher end, and although, for want of cleets, there is some loss, it is wonderful to see with what dexterity the left hand is used to keep the

dust at the head of the trough, and to allow of a constant stream of water passing down its slope, thus washing the stuff thoroughly in a very short time, and leaving nothing but the very finest of the schlich, with its gold-dust. This trough might be improved, but as it is light, and one man can work it easily, being supplied with material by a boy, and one man to dig, it answers the purpose,—and, when gold is plentiful, this is the cheapest method of labour which could be employed in Assam. The oval board in use with the Singphos appears to me, however, in dexterous hands to be equal to any trough,—and, provided the stuff could be given to the washer after having been passed through a sieve, I reckon this to be the best and cheapest method of extracting the gold-dust,—for, not only does an expert gold-washer wash clean every particle of oxide and gold contained in a given quantity of rubble, but he will, after the day's labour is over, take the schlich and gold-dust on the board, and by a peculiar dexterity of hand with the board and the water, wash away every particle of the former, leaving the latter at the head of the board, with little necessity for quicksilver to lick it up, as generally done to prepare it for melting."

Along with Major Hannay's Note was printed an "Account of a visit to the Jugloo and Seesee Rivers in Upper Assam," by Captain E. T. Dalton.

This account is most interesting. In November, 1852, Captain Dalton received instructions to examine and report on the gold-producing capabilities of the Jugloo, an affluent of the Buri Dehing, falling into that river about fourteen miles above Jaipur. According to tradition, the tract through which the Jugloo flows contains rich gold deposits. Captain Dalton proceeded to the gold-field accompanied by an expert gold-washer and some coolies. He thus describes the experiments made by him:—

"After about an hour's walk from the Dihing up the stream of the Jugloo, when we first came on pebbles, we commenced washing in a rough wooden pan made for the occasion. The very first attempt gave a few minute specks of rather pale gold; we continued washing at intervals as we advanced, and every panful of gravel was found to contain a few of these spangles. At a point which seemed favourable for the purpose, we turned a portion of the stream and made a hole three feet in its bed. The washings from this depth decidedly gave a greater number of spangles and of a richer colour than those we had obtained from the surface-washings. Rising from a part of the stream the section of a hill about fifty feet in height, of coarse reddish sandstone, was left bare and perpendicular by a land-slip. This contained a stratum of gravel about fifteen feet above the highest watermark, some of which I caused to be washed, and it too was found to contain gold, indicating that the presence of that metal was not confined to spots acted on by the waters of the Jugloo; sand and gravel taken from occasional watercourses leading to the Jugloo were washed with the same result.

"Retracing our steps, we proceeded up another branch of the Jugloo, and were joined by a party of gold-washers deputed by me to obtain specimens, who took us to the scene of their operations about half a mile from the junction of the two rivers. They had been working two pans, and, to assist the operation, they had constructed two small embankments with bamboos and rubbish which divided the stream into three channels, and enabled them to turn all the water into or out of the central channel. Their practice is to collect with small wooden scrapers a heap of gravel at the lower end of their central channel; upon this they cause the stream to play, and with sieves made of bamboo they sift the heap and throw aside the pebbles.

"The stream carries off the lighter particles of the sand thus disturbed. Pansful of the residue, which consists entirely of mineral fragments, are then taken up and washed in the usual manner with results far more satisfactory than when the gravel is washed in the pan without being subjected to this preliminary process.

"Proceeding up this stream, I found it had in many places cut for itself little ravines, showing sections of hills formed of deposits of grey and red coarse sand, of sufficient consistency to form upright cliffs, though crumbling when handled, with beds of gravel intervening, which also occur in tolerably consistent masses approaching to a conglomerate; these lay in strata inclined at an angle of 45° or thereabouts. I obtained washings from them all, and found gold-dust in the red sand and gravel strata always, but not always in the blue sand, which owed its colour to a mixture of blue clay slate silt.

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"I made a rough estimate of the quantity of rubble washed, and, on comparing it with the gold obtained, it gave about 18 grains to the ton, and about 8 grains as the outturn of one man's labour for the day."

Subsequently, Captain Dalton proceeded, in company with Major Hannay, to examine the gold-producing sands of the Seesee River, on the north bank of the Brahmaputra. The experiments at the Seesee River are thus described by Captain Dalton:—

"Within an easy march of their own villages, they (the Seesee ryots) annually find here lucrative occupation for the months of the year when an excursion of the kind is most enjoyable, and when they have most leisure from their agricultural pursuits to give to it. After 'harvest-home' in January, they form parties and start with provisions for a week or a fortnight, and in a very short time, if they are fortunate, they may obtain sufficient gold to pay their revenue. They wash in troughs called 'dooruffis,' a process which has been already described in former numbers of the *Journal*.*

* *Vide* Journal VII, p. 621.—Eds.

"In favourable localities, 20 grains of gold is not an unusual return to one day's labour with a dooruni worked by three men, who between them dig up, remove, and wash in a day on an average about one ton of rubble. In the operations conducted in our presence, the yield of one dooruni, which was made over to me, was only 11 grains, from 1 ton, 2 cwt., 36 lb of rubble, but this was pronounced by the gold-washers to be very unfavourable.

"The average may be estimated for the Seesee at 15 grains to one ton of earth.

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"The annual yield of the Seesee is said to be about half a seer. Judging in this way, the most valuable rivers are the Subansiri and Dibong, whose yield annually is from a seer-and-a-half to two seers of pure gold.

"The Brahmaputra and Dibong are said to give each from half-a-seer to three-quarters; the numerous smaller rivers in Lakhimpur are variously stated at from a quarter to half-a-seer, the total annual yield of the district being about ten seers. Each river is worked by the gold-washers who live nearest to it. But few are now employed in the occupation in comparison to the numbers that engaged in it when Assam was under a native government. The whole of the khéle, or tribe of gold-washers, were then obliged to follow that profession, as they were under the necessity of paying their contribution towards the expenses of the State in pure gold."

The subject of the gold deposits in the rivers of Assam does not appear to have attracted any attention subsequent to the publication of Captain Dalton's and Major Hannay's Notes. From the replies received to the recent circular of the Chief Commissioner, above alluded to, it appears that in only three districts of the Province has gold-washing ever been carried on, *viz.*, Darrang, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur. Colonel Sherer, Deputy-Commissioner of Darrang, reporting on the subject

generally, says that, under the Assam Raj, establishments, consisting of Hazarikas, Shoikias, Boras, and Paiks, used to be entertained solely for the purpose of conducting and overlooking the gold-washings. The Bhoirabi, Borganj, and Dikrang Rivers, in Darrang, and the Subansiri and other rivers, in Lakhimpur, are, he states, known to have yielded gold to some extent. The Hazarikas were required to present to the Rajah annually a certain quantity of the gold they might extract from the streams in their respective jurisdictions, and, in default, they had to pay a penalty in the sum of Rs. 18 for each of the paiks allowed them and their subordinates. After the occupation of the Assam Valley by the British, the gold-washings in the streams of the Charduar and Nowduar mehals were regularly settled every year, as in the case of fisheries. The leases of these mehals used to be put up to auction; but, the price they fetched gradually becoming less and less, they have not been offered for sale since 1865-66.

Major Campbell, Deputy-Commissioner of Sibságar, reports that in that district gold-washing was chiefly carried on in the Desai River, within the jurisdiction of the Jorhát sub-division. The vocation of gold-washing was, he says, pursued by a class of people called "Hunwál* Cacharis," and it appears that there are still in Sibságar some four villages inhabited by the descendants of these gold-washers.

* Sonawál.

Gold-washing in Sibságar used to be carried on for only three months in the year, *viz.*, Magh, Falgun, and Chait, and the tax levied by the Assam Rajahs was half a tola of gold per man per annum. The Deputy-Commissioner states that, while at Jorhát lately, he sent for an old man, who recollected the time when gold-washing was carried on. This man stated that his village had long ago abandoned the vocation because it did not pay, and because they were able to earn more on tea-gardens. He washed some of the sand of the Desai in Major Campbell's presence, who, on the sand being washed away, observed some very minute particles of gold remaining. Of the three districts of Upper Assam, Lakhimpur appears to have been the one in which the business of gold-washing was most actively pursued. Major Clarke, in his report, says that gold-washing was carried on in almost every river and stream in the district. The principal streams whose sand contains an auriferous deposit are the Lohit, the Dihang, the Dibang, the Upper Dehing, the Noe, the Buri Dehing, the Disang, the Dikrang, the Ranga, the Jayhing, and the Subansiri.

Major Clarke says that no tax was paid by the gold-washers, except as paiks; but that the payment of the paik-tax was, in their case, made in gold. He then goes on to say—"The Sonowals, or Honowals, it is said, were required to pay a certain amount of gold to the Rajahs. A joint payment of gold, weighing 1,000 tolas, was exacted from the persons washing in each of the rivers Dihang, Dibang, and Lohit, and 500 tolas from those washing for gold in the Noe and Buri Dehing Rivers" The Deputy-Commissioner was unable to ascertain the amounts of gold payable for washing in the other rivers. He thinks these gold payments were merely another form of the paik-tax. From what Major Clarke says, it would appear that the three most productive streams

are the Dihang, the Dibang, and the Lohit. The Deputy-Commissioner considers that the industry was by no means a profitable one, and that it was followed under compulsion on the part of the Rajahs. He says the profits were only from 4 annas to 12 annas per man per mensem,—a very low rate of profit even in those days. For many years, the leases of the gold-washing mehals in Lakhimpur have been sold for merely nominal sums. In 1874-75 they only fetched the sum of Rs. 7.

It would seem, however, that gold-washing operations in the Lakhimpur district were, prior to the first great extension of the tea industry, by no means inconsiderable. Mr. A. Campbell, an officer well acquainted with the Assam Valley, says that some twenty years ago, when he was stationed in North Lakhimpur, several of the rivers in the sub-division were farmed out annually. The most profitable of these rivers was, he states, the Subansiri, and he has seen as many as two hundred men at work each year washing for gold by this river.

Mr. Campbell thus describes the method used for extracting the gold-dust:—

"The method of washing adopted was very simple. A wooden cradle, somewhat of the shape of the body of a wheelbarrow, but shallower and longer, was used. By successive washings, the gravel and larger particles of sand were got rid of, the machine being fixed on a gentle incline for this purpose. Finally, the gold-dust remained quite apparent to the sight, but mixed with the finest sand. Quicksilver was then used to separate it from the sand; it combined readily with the gold particles, leaving the sand free. The quicksilver was subsequently drawn off by heat, and the gold was obtained in its pure state"

Mr. Campbell bears testimony to the unprofitableness of the industry, although he says the yield was considerable, and he has heard of as much as three-quarters of a seer of gold being obtained in a single season by a single party of washers. The cause of this unprofitableness he explains thus:—

"The right of washing was ordinarily purchased by one of the amlah, or by some hanger-on about the courts, who rack-rented it to the actual washers. The price of quicksilver, which, as already shown, was indispensable in the industry, was about Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 per tola weight, and was all lost in the process. The price of gold in the bazar ranged from Rs. 14 to Rs. 17 per tola; but the washers had to subsist on advances obtained at ruinous rates, hypothecating their estimated outturn of gold for the season at from Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 per tola."

From the above accounts, it is clearly established that a considerable amount of gold was in former days extracted from the rivers of Upper Assam, and there is no reason to suppose that these rivers have lost their auriferous character. It is scarcely to be wondered at that the industry died out as labour became more valuable, considering that it was carried on with the rudest mechanical contrivances, and without either system or capital. It is not necessarily to be inferred that, with modern appliances, systematic management, and capital, a considerable profit might not again be derived from this same source.

Colonel Keatinge thinks that if the gold-washing industry in this Province is ever again to become of any importance, it must owe its re-establishment entirely to private energy. He has some reason to believe that the question has attracted attention. He would be glad to see experimental operations undertaken by persons possessing the requisite knowledge and appliances.

SECTION 5.—MANUFACTURES.

205. A general description of the manufactures of the Province was given in the permanent portion of the Administration Report for the years 1874-75 and 1875-76. There is nothing to add to this description. The manufacture of tea will, as in the previous report, be dealt with separately.

Tea.

206. As in previous years, so in the year under report, many of the planters submitted no returns concerning the tea cultivation on their estates, and, consequently, the information contained in this section is incomplete.

The Chief Commissioner considers it hopeless to expect to obtain complete returns of this nature for the whole Province, as long as their submission by the planters is altogether optional; indeed, he has reason to fear that, owing to the action of proprietors, the number of gardens submitting returns will considerably decrease. It is, accordingly, of very questionable utility to attempt to trace the progress of the tea industry on such data, as deductions drawn from incomplete or inaccurate returns are worse than useless. It is, indeed, much to be regretted that all the endeavours of the authorities to obtain complete returns have been unsuccessful, as accurate statistics exhibiting the development of this important industry would be of the greatest value, as well as of general interest.

Attempts have been made by the district officers to obtain approximate statistics of outturn, based on the returns of gardens which submitted the required statements, and to estimate the cultivated area of defaulting gardens from former returns, or from inquiries from other sources; but it is evident that figures so obtained cannot be relied on for accuracy.

According to the returns submitted by the district officers the total area of waste land held under different tenures for the purpose of tea cultivation during 1876 was 6,22,455 acres, against 5,66,303 acres in 1875; but, according to the official land registers, the area is as follows:—

		Acres.
(1)	Under Old Assam Rules	18,141
(2)	Ditto . but since redeemed	250,948
(3)	Under ordinary lease—	106,237
(4)	„ thirty-years' lease	24,444
(5)	Purchased in fee-simple	191,844
(6)	Held from zemindars	1,936
	Total	664,550

The discrepancy cannot be reconciled. It is not, however, very material, and the figures may be safely taken to prove that the area of land taken up for tea cultivation has been extended by about 100,000 acres during the past year.

The table overleaf contains the statistics for the Province, so far as it has been possible to compile them; but, for the reason above given, it would be of little advantage to institute any analytical comparison between the figures for this year and those given in last year's report:—

Return showing the Progress of Tea Operations during the year 1876.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
District.	Extent of land belonging to the concern.				Extent of land fit for tea cultivation.	Area covered by mature plant at end of year under report.	Average yield per acre of mature plant.	Area brought under cultivation during the year under report.	Total area under cultivation at end of year under report.	Outturn of tea in previous year.	Outturn in the year under report.	Estimate of outturn for next year.	Number of steam-engines, if any.
	Under Assam Rules of 1854.	In fee-simple.	Under cultivation leases.	Total.									
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	lb	Acres.	Acres.	lb	lb	lb	
Cachar	53,046·11	116,236·28	55,700·15	224,982·54	118,806·25	33,313·78	215·50	4,250	38,717·28	625,858	7,179,320	8,567,780	21
Sylhet	9,341·50	4,440	38,695	52,476·50	25,316·50	6,245·50	118·61	3,206	9,519·50	520,048	740,811	910,814	2
Goálpara	....	....	1,936	1,936	783	103	79·79	116	226	7,757	8,219	14,611	....
Kamrup	2,499·38	15,986·28	2,510·51	20,996·17	12,862·42	3,020·07	220·00	571·52	5,088·52	579,923·5	564,675·3	817,780	....
Darrang	3,749·37	53,358·66	18,128·93	75,236·96	55,037·40	19,051	180·86	2,691·5	13,287	2,674,159	3,445,572	1,570,920	23
Nowgong	2,975·53	9,601·06	5,660·85	18,237·44	8,920·12	2,624·07	308·69	579·75	4,207·32	586,551	810,028	1,006,400	6
Sibságar	24,205	90,999	18,938	134,142	67,208	22,883	296·23	1,963	28,236	61,463,896	6,778,847	7,896,727	72
Lakhimpur	5,072	80,130	9,246	94,448	58,256	12,036·50	309·27	2,525	15,795	509,311	3,722,599	4,595,420	31
Total	1,00,888·89	370,751·28	150,815·44	622,455·61	347,189·69	99,276·92	235·2	15,902·77	115,076·62	66,967,503·5	23,350,071·3	25,380,452	155

SECTION 6.—TRADE.

207. A general outline account of the trade of this Province will be found in Section 7, Chapter I., Part II.A. of the Administration Report for the years 1874-75 and 1875-76; but no statistics of trade were given in that report,—none of a trustworthy nature being available. The first attempt at systematic registration of the trade of the Province was made during the year under report, but operations have been confined to the registration of the frontier trade with non-British territories. Statistics regarding the inland trade of Assam will be found in the Report on Trade Statistics by the Government of Bengal. Almost the whole of the inland trade of the Province passes along the Brahmaputra and Surmá rivers, and, for the purpose of registering that trade, the Chief Commissioner fixed upon Dhubri, on the Brahmaputra, and Lakhai, on the Surmá, as registering stations; but, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal having opened registering stations at Chilmari, on the former river, and at Bairab Bazar, on the latter river, the Chief Commissioner abandoned his intention of registering the inland trade of the Province,—there being manifestly no necessity for keeping up two sets of registering stations for registering the trade passing down the same route.

The Chief Commissioner had hoped to commence the registration of the frontier trade from the beginning of the financial year 1876-77; but, owing to the delay in the receipt of the necessary forms, this was found impossible, and registering operations did not commence till the end of 1876. Owing, however, to the registration having commenced on different dates in the several districts, provincial totals can only be given for the months of January, February, and March, 1877.

The statistics submitted are therefore only for the last quarter of the financial year, instead of for the whole year. It may be remarked, however, that the frontier trade during the hot weather and the rains is almost *nil*, compared with the trade during the cold-weather months. The figures given are, therefore, not very much below the total figures which might have been expected, were the returns obtainable for the whole year.

208. The frontier trade of the Province is carried on with—

(1.) Bhután.	(4.) Manipur.
(2.) The Mishmi Hills.	(5.) The Lushai Hills.
(3.) The Nága Hills.	(6.) Hill Tipperah

For the purpose of registering this trade, twenty-one registering stations, situated on the principal trade routes, have been selected.

The trade between Bhután and Assam is registered by the frontier mouzahdars at the following stations:—Ripu, Guma, Cháring, Sidli and Bijni, in Goálpára; Darranga, in Kámrúp, near to Dewangiri; and Gohpur, Helem, Daimará, Bálipárá, Udalguri, and Khágrápára, in Darrang.

The trade with the Mishmi Hills is registered by two committees of traders, one at Dibrugarh and the other at North Lakhimpur; and a committee of traders at Jaipur registers the trade between the Nága Hills and the district of Lakhimpur.

The trade between the Province and Manipur is registered at Lakhipur, where an establishment has been entertained for the purpose. For the purpose of registering the trade with the Lushai Hills, three registering stations, at each of which there is a special establishment, have been opened, *viz.*, at Mainadahar, on the Bárak, at Monierkhál, on the Sonai, and at Jháluáchara, on the Dhaleswari.

The trade between this Province and Hill Tipperah passes along the rivers which debouch from those hills, and three stations for registering this trade have been opened, in charge of special establishments. These stations are—

(1.) Karimganj, situated at the junction of the Langai and Kushiara rivers.
(2.) Nowakháli, situated a few miles from the junction of the Mannu and Dhulai rivers.
(3.) Lashkarpur, situated on the Khowai.

In Assam Proper, the registration is effected by unpaid agency. The Chief Commissioner thinks that the statistics furnished by the mouzahdars are to a certain extent approximately correct in most cases; but he fears that little reliance can be placed on those collected by the committees of traders, it not being in any way to the advantage of those merchants that the true state of the trade in which they are interested should be known. The returns furnished by the special establishments may, Colonel Keatinge thinks, be accepted as sufficiently correct for all practical purposes.

209. The following statement shows the total value of the export and import trade between Assam and the adjoining non-British territories during the period under review:—

Exports from Assam into	Rs.	Imports into Assam from	Rs.
Bhután	1,98,423	Bhután	91,546
Nága and Mishmi Hills ...	23,536	Nága and Mishmi Hills ...	58,034
Hill Tipperah	3,107	Hill Tipperah	35,256
Lushai Hills	17,360	Lushai Hills	34,363
Manipur	29,780	Manipur	5,231
Total	2,72,206	Total	2,24,430

It will be seen from the above that the exports exceeded the imports in value by Rs. 47,776, or about 17 per cent. This result was not to be expected, rather the converse, as the tendency of half-civilized frontier tribes would seem ordinarily to be to take away specie to be utilized, probably, partly in making ornaments, and partly as a medium of exchange and a convenient means of storing property. It may be noted that the statistics of the trade between Bengal and foreign territory for the year 1876-77 show an excess of 31 per cent. in the value of imports, as compared with exports.

In the case of Manipur, the export trade, according to the present returns, considerably exceeds in value the import trade. This result (as will be seen from the statements further on) is due to the large export trade in betel-nuts. The Deputy-Commissioner, however, states that the bulk of the imports from Manipur arrived in Cachar before registration operations began, and that, as there is no doubt but that a considerable amount of silver, which finds no place in the returns, is actually withdrawn to Manipur in the shape of specie, the import trade with that State will in reality be found on the returns of the entire year to exceed the export trade.

The unlooked-for result of an excess in the aggregate value of the exports over the imports in the frontier trade of the entire Province is due, it will be seen from the detailed district returns (given in the appendix), to the large amount of silk to the value of Rs. 1,45,943, reported as taken from the Kámrúp district into Bhután. The Chief Commissioner views, however, these figures with the greatest suspicion. He finds it difficult to believe that so extensive a trade as this in a single article, of which the manufacture, moreover, has been for several years on the decrease, can have been carried on in the three months for which returns are furnished,—especially as no large fair is held in the Kámrúp district to form a nucleus for such extensive transactions. In Darrang, where two fairs frequented by the Bhutias are held, the amount of silk exported is trifling. The figures are based merely on returns from the mouzahdars, who, unless there has been some clerical error in the computation, must, it is feared have supplemented facts largely from their imaginations.

210. The chief articles of import into Assam from non-British territories are rubber, wax, ponies, salt, and blankets. The following detailed statement of the trade in these staples illustrates the proportion of the import trade of the several frontier States in this Province:—

Imports into Assam from	Rubber.	Salt.	Ponies.	Blankets.	Wax.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bhután	13,230	22,758	18,640	18,215	.....
Nága and Mishmi Hills	46,110	.....	.....	.....	6,900
Hill Tipperah	6,150	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lushai Hills	27,630	.....	.....	.....	750
Manipur	210	.....	3,010	.....	450
Total	93,330	22,758	21,650	18,215	8,100

It will be seen that a considerable trade in rubber and wax is shown as being carried on with the Nága and Mishmi Hills. The figures are, however, not very reliable, being obtained only from the traders themselves. Still, a large amount of both these commodities is undoubtedly brought down by the hillmen. A fair amount of rubber is also obtained from the Lushai Hills. The trade in ponies with Bhután is well known to be

considerable, and the figures under this head are probably correct. The salt, which is imported direct from Bhután, is believed to come originally from Thibet.

211. The principal articles of export from Assam into the frontier States are silk cloth, betel-nuts, paddy, rice, and European cotton piece-goods.

The following statement gives the same information regarding the chief articles of export from this Province as has been given in the preceding statement regarding the import trade:—

Exports from Assam into	Silk cloth.	Betel-nuts.	Paddy.	Rice.	European cotton piece-goods.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bhután	1,50,315	1,120	17,184	14,512	4,566
Nága and Mishmi Hills	4,672	.....	.....	52	1,876
Hill Tipperah	.....	.....	.....	.....	150
Lushai Hills	.....	.....	.....	131	2,575
Manipur	21	20,000	.....	.....	2,338
Total	1,55,008	21,120	17,184	14,695	11,505

It has already been observed that the amount of silk cloth returned as exported to Bhután is probably altogether unreliable.

212. The leading features of the trade with the several frontier States will now be briefly detailed.

213. During the cold-weather months a considerable trade is carried on between the independent State of Bhután and the bordering Assam districts of Goálpára, Kámrúp, and Darrang, and numerous Bhutia merchants come down through the several routes, or *duars*, to attend the fairs held annually at Dhubri, Datma, and Udalguri. The trade with Bhután, except in the matter of exported silk, the amount of which seems erroneously entered, is undoubtedly much larger than the returns show it to be. The extended line of frontier renders the interception of each particular stream of traffic impossible without the organization of a special and expensive agency, and only approximate figures can be hoped for. For eight months of the year there is an entire cessation of trade with Bhután, as the Bhutias of the interior will not venture into the terai, or even into the lower ranges of their hills, during the hot-weather months.

The following statement shows the total value of the principal articles imported into, and exported from, Assam into Bhután during the period under report, as shown by the returns:—

Imports.	Rs.	Exports.	Rs.
Ponies	18,640	Silk manufactures	1,50,315
Salt	22,758	Paddy	17,184
Blankets	18,215	Rice	14,512
Rubber	13,230	Cotton and piece-goods (European manufacture)	4,566
		Brass and copper manufactures.	4,000
		Betel-leaves	3,165
Total	72,843	Total	1,93,742

214. As a rule, our trade with the Nága and Mishmi Hills is confined to those tribes who inhabit the lower ranges of the hills, these tribes in turn trading with those lying behind them. The hillmen, generally speaking, do not come to the principal marts to trade, but deal with outlying shopkeepers who live near the hills. During the cold season, traders watch for the hillmen on the roads by which they come down to the plains, and all business is transacted in temporary sheds erected for the purpose. As soon as the rains begin, the hillmen return to their homes. The major portion of the trade with the Mishmis and other tribes on the north bank of the Brahmaputra is transacted at Gogá Mukh, Sisi and Doblong, Dimu and Sadiya,—the traffic at the latter-named place being far larger than at any of the others. There are no shops beyond Sadiya.

Trade transactions with the Nágas are carried on chiefly at Bisa and Phákial; at the latter place a Marwari merchant has established a permanent shop. There are also shops at Jaipur and Dábá. The Nágas come down to trade as far as Jaipur, but their heavy merchandise, such as rubber, is bought from them on the way by the Marwari traders, who go to meet them. Rubber, wax, and ivory are the chief articles of import from the Mishmi and Nága Hills.

The import trade in these articles during the period under review was, according to the returns furnished by the traders, as follows:—

Rubber	Rs.	46,110
Wax	"	6,900
Ivory	"	1,920
Total	"	54,930

The principal articles of export from Assam into these hills are opium, silk cloth, salt, and cattle, and these articles are said to have

been exported to the value of Rs. 19,079 during the period under report, as exhibited below:—

Opium	Rs.	9,000
Silk cloth	"	4,672
Salt	"	3,407
Cattle	"	2,000
Total	"	19,079

215. The major portion of the transactions in connection with the trade between this Province and Manipur takes place at the annual fair held at Silchar. The chief articles of export are betel-nuts, metals, European cotton piece-goods, miscellaneous native goods, and cattle. The chief articles of import are ponies, native cotton stuffs, and wax. The following statement shows the value of the trade with Manipur in the principal articles of export and import during the period under review; but, as has before been observed, the imports are understated, owing to a large portion of them having arrived before registration was commenced:—

Exports.		Imports.	
	Rs.		Rs.
Betel-nuts	20,000	Horses, ponies, &c.	3,010
Metals	4,090	Native cotton piece-goods	766
Cotton piece-goods (European)	2,338	Wax	450
Miscellaneous native goods	1,185		
Cattle	770		
Total	28,383	Total	4,226

The traders of Silchar are of opinion that the Manipur trade is on the decline, such decline being attributed partly to the fact of the Manipuris living in Cachar, who were the principal traders, having suffered from the depression of the timber trade.

In his Annual Administration Report for 1874-75, the late Dr Brown, Political Agent at Manipur, attributes the falling off in the trade to the oppressive measures of the Manipur authorities, but for whose ill-advised action it is probable that the trade would have long since assumed very considerable dimensions.

216. The bazaars resorted to by merchants trading with the Lushais are Bipari bazaar, Sonai bazaar, Chándsil bazaar, and the bazaar at Tipai Mukh.

The trade with Lushai land, though lately in a flourishing condition, is now decidedly on the decline, owing chiefly to the exhaustion of the rubber-supply in the hills. Since the close of the year under report, our traders at Tipai Mukh have left the bazaar, finding that

little profit was to be got. The following statement shows the principal articles of trade between this Province and the Lushai Hills, and the total value of such articles exported from, and imported into Assam during the period under report:—

Imports.	Rs.	Exports.	Rs.
Rubber	27,630	Miscellaneous native goods and cash	6,260
Timber	3,170	Cotton manufactures (European)	2,575
Ivory	2,138	„ (raw)	2,015
Wax	750	Brass and copper manufactures	1,930
Cotton (raw)	610	Salt	1,833
		Iron manufactures	803
Total	34,298	Total	15,416

217. The principal articles of import into Assam from Hill Tipperah are bamboos, raw cotton, rubber, and mats. The following statement shows the total value of these articles imported during the period under review:—

	Rs.
Bamboos	14,440
Raw cotton	13,330
Rubber	6,150
Mats	630
Total	34,550

The principal article of import is bamboo; but the trade in this article is not carried on by the hill people themselves. Parties of men from Sylhet go up into the hills, and having cut all the available bamboos growing near to the streams, float them down in the form of rafts for sale at Sylhet. Cotton is cultivated by the hill people, who bring it down to Sylhet in long narrow baskets.

The subjoined statement shows the total value of the principal articles of trade exported from this Province into Hill Tipperah during the period under report:—

	Rs.
Dried fish	2,200
Oil	324
Salt	203
Total	2,727

218. Inquiries have been made, with a view to ascertain whether merchants engaged in the frontier trade are liable to any duty after they leave, or before they enter, British territory, but with no very satisfactory results.

It is believed that no duty is levied beyond our territory upon merchants trading in Bhután, and in the Nága and Mishmi Hills.

In the Lushai Hills, however, the traders are undoubtedly taxed, and they have complained of the exactions of the chiefs. In Hill Tipperah duty is levied by the rajah on the bamboos cut by the Sylhet woodcutters; but it is not known whether any other articles of trade are taxed. Particulars of the duties levied in Manipur upon imports into, and exports out of, that country will be found at pages 15-16 of the Report of the Manipur Agency for the year 1873-74, and need not be re-produced here.

It is hoped that fuller information on this important point will be available for the next year's report.

SECTION 7.—PUBLIC WORKS.

219. The following is an abstract of the expenditure of the Public Works Department during the year under report:—

Service heads	Original budget grants.	Final grants.	Outlay.	Differences.	
				More.	Less.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial Services—					
Military	39,700	39,700	36,084	.....	3,616
Civil Buildings	26,080	26,080	13,673	.....	12,407
Establishment	16,320	16,320	12,433	.....	3,887
Barrack Department	500	500	137	.	363
Total, Imperial Services ...	82,600	82,600	62,327	.....	20,273
Provincial Services—					
Civil Buildings	1,27,900	1,41,026	1,42,452	1,426	.....
Communications	2,64,000	2,63,655	2,77,144	13,489	.....
Miscellaneous Public Improvements	100	100	85	.....	15
	3,92,000	4,04,781	4,19,681	14,915	15
Establishment	2,50,000	2,50,000	2,50,502	502	.....
Tools and plant	28,000	15,219	14,704	.....	515
Profit and loss	.....	.....	128	128	.....
	6,70,000	6,70,000	6,85,015	15,545	530
Deduct decrease in suspense balances.	.....	.....	35,453	.....	35,453
Total Provincial Services ...	6,70,000	6,70,000	6,49,562	.....	20,438
Local Services—					
Civil Buildings	1,000	1,000	450	.....	550
Communications	80,964	1,11,487	1,00,426	.....	11 061
Miscellaneous Public Improvements	4,000	4,000	905	.....	3,095
	85,964	1,16,487	1,01,781	.....	14,706
Establishment	.....	.....	525	525	.....
Total, Local Services ...	85,964	1,16,487	1,02,306	.....	14,181
Grand Total ...	8,38,564	8,69,087	8,14,195	.....	54,892

It will be seen that the expenditure on all heads amounted to Rs. 8,14,195, against the final grant amounting to Rs. 8,69,087, leaving a balance of Rs. 54,892, which constitutes the lapse of the year.

The short outlay is principally under Imperial, and is about one-fourth of the grant. This has partly resulted from the restriction placed by the Government of India on Imperial expenditure, but principally from the building of the new telegraph-office at Gauháti having been stopped, pending the settlement of certain questions about its construction and cost.

Except a trifling saving under Miscellaneous Public Improvements and Tools and Plant, every item under Provincial Services shows an excess. But, as a very satisfactory decrease of Rs. 35,453 was effected in suspense balances during the course of the year, there has been an expenditure of Rs. 20,438 short of the total grant.

The saving of Rs. 14,181 under Local Services is due to four funds, as shown below:—

	Grant.	Outlay.				Saving.
		Original Work.	Repairs	Establishment.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Local Fund—						
Ferries	2,532	.....	1,387	..	1,387	1,145
Staging-bungalows	6,782	.....	6,019	412	6,431	351
	9,314	.....	7,406	412	7,818	1,496
Williamson Education Fund—						
Civil Buildings	1,000	.....	450	113	563	437
District Improvement Fund (Reserve Account)—						
Grants-in-aid to Provincial Services—						
Communications	79,698	74,877	1,474	...	76,351	3,347
Spent direct from the Fund—						
Communications	22,475	16,669	.....	...	16,669	5,806
	1,02,173	91,546	1,474	...	93,020	9,153
District Improvement Fund (Miscellaneous Improvement Account)—						
Miscellaneous Public Improvements.	4,000	905	.....	...	905	3,095
	4,000	905	.....	...	905	3,095
Grand Total ...	1,16,487	92,451	9,330	525	1,02,306	14,181

The only item calling for notice is the saving of Rs. 3,095 from the Miscellaneous Improvement Account, which bears a large proportion to the grant of the year under that head. It is due to delay in getting a project prepared for the improvement of the drainage of the Gauháti station, for which the assignment was made. Plans and estimates could not be got ready before the expiration of the year, but they have since been received and sanctioned.

The short outlay under the other heads of Local Services was the result of precaution used to work within the limits of the grants, some of which were made late in the year.

It should be mentioned that the bulk of the expenditure from the reserve grant of the District Improvement Fund, *viz.*, Rs. 76,351, was incurred on Provincial roads passing through the districts concerned, and the balance, Rs. 16,669, with the exception of the sums of Rs. 1,031 and Rs. 2,862, spent on the construction of the road between Sibságar, and Disangmukh and the timber bridge over the Kakodanga, represents the outlay incurred in constructing dâk-bungalows at the stations of Tezpur, Nowgong, Sibságar, Dibrugarh, and Silchar.

The explanatory memorandum attached to the appropriation and outlay accounts, shows that the average cost of establishment for the ten years immediately preceding the formation of Assam into a separate Local Administration was 42·74 per cent. of the expenditure on works, whereas for the three years subsequent thereto the cost has been 40·6 per cent. The percentage of the year 1876-77, under review, was 48·67, which is above the average of the last three years. But this is due to the necessity for keeping the expenditure down below the ordinary grant, to make up for the excess over grant that was incurred in the previous year, 1875-76. The average percentage of the last thirteen years has been 42, and, considering the economy and care with which the establishment is distributed over the work to be done, and the difficulty felt in making it suffice for the scattered work of the Province, it is improbable that this percentage will be reduced.

220. The progress made in the construction of buildings and roads will now be briefly described.

Imperial Services.

221. The principal works, the expenditure upon which is debited to Imperial Services, undertaken during the year were the metalling of the cantonment road, Dibrugarh, the completion of the repairs to the Dúm-dúm block-house, the metalling of the cantonment road, Silchar, the pushing on almost to completion the work of constructing a rifle-range at Silchar, the conversion of the gun-shed at Dibrugarh into a Commissariat godown, the raising of the parapet wall of the roof of the magazine at Sadiya, the sinking of a wooden well at the Poba stockade, the re-construction of an armourer's shop at Silchar, the conversion of the Serjeant-Major's bungalow at Sylhet into a police hospital, the addition of a room for browning arms to the armourer's shop at Shillong, the construction of Native Infantry lines at Jowai, repairing the military hospital at Tezpur, the construction of temporary telegraph-offices at Nowgong, Silghat, Jorhát, Sibságar, and Dibrugarh, the re-building of the telegraph-office at Dhubri, the partial construction of a new post-office at Sylhet, and the construction of a temporary post-office at Tezpur.

PROVINCIAL SERVICES.

222. *Buildings.*—In connection with buildings constructed from Provincial Funds, the principal works carried out during the year were as follows :—

The work of re-building the civil ward of the Tezpur jail was completed, and the additions to, and alterations in, the Sylhet jail were commenced. The construction of a police thannah at Gauháti was pushed on almost to completion, and a police hospital and a normal school were constructed at Goálpára. At Shillong, the building of the church was practically completed, the new court-house for the Deputy-Commissioner was almost finished, and extensive alterations, including a new iron roof, were effected in the Residency building. Materials were collected for re-building the Deputy-Commissioner's court-house at Sibságar, the new court-house at Tura was completed, materials were collected for the work of providing additional office accommodation for the Deputy-Commissioner, Sylhet, the construction of the sub-divisional offices at Sunámganj were commenced, and the sub-divisional residence at Háilákándi was completed.

223. *Roads.*—The work performed during the year in connection with the principal roads, being of considerable importance, will be noticed in some detail.

Assam Trunk Road.

224. The Trunk Road was so far completed by the end of the year 1876-77 that a considerable number of carts were able to pass over it the whole way from Dhubri to Sadiya. The road has been furnished throughout with inspection-bungalows and temporary serais for the use of travellers. The traffic on the road is increasing, though the increase in the year under report over the previous year is less than that of 1875-76 over 1874-75. The number of persons and cattle crossed at the ferry over the Brahmaputra at Dhubri, compared with the number during the previous two years, is given in the following table :—

	Persons.	Cattle.
1874-75	34,634	10,255
1875-76	53,323	18,155
1876-77	58,799	18,120

A good deal of this traffic is merely local, but the rate of increase at this ferry may be taken as a fair index of the general rate of increase of the through traffic along the Trunk Road into Assam.

It is not to be supposed, however, that the quality of the Assam Trunk Road is at all of a high class, or that it is constructed to uniform dimensions throughout. In the first place, the road is nowhere metalled, and the finances of the Province do not admit of its improvement to a metalled road. The main object of the road is to facilitate immigration, and a metalled road is not necessary for this purpose. But the road is embanked almost throughout its course above the level of floods, and is substantially bridged, except at the larger streams, where ferries are provided. For the first 150 miles from Dhubri, the minimum width is 16 feet, and a considerable portion is as wide as 20 feet. The next 150 miles are for the most part not more than 12 feet wide, but the last 150 miles are again from 16 to 20 feet wide.

It will be readily understood that the heavy floods of every rainy season do a great deal of damage to the road. The bridges are mostly of wood, and require much repair, and the traffic on many sections is not sufficient to keep the jungle from overgrowing the road. These causes render the maintenance of the road both difficult and expensive. Yet it is essential to the success of the road, as an inducement to immigration, that great attention should be paid to its maintenance and to the accommodation for travellers. Efforts have therefore been made to increase the efficiency of the subordinate establishment in charge of the several sections, and Executive-Engineers and their subordinates are required to make frequent inspections. The whole road is divided into eleven sub-divisional charges. The expenditure on the entire length of this road during the year has been Rs. 1,22,205, and, in addition, Rs. 80,648 have been spent on the ordinary maintenance of the road.

225. The expenditure on minor and petty works under the head of Communications amounted to Rs. 5,443 throughout the Province. It was incurred on ferries, serais, inspection-bungalows, and other petty items, mostly of a temporary nature.

Shillong Cart-road.

226. During the rainy season of the year under report, work was carried on on a break of two miles in the road which remained unfinished at the close of the previous year, and through communication between Gauháti and Shillong was effected in October, 1876. The worst portions of the road were improved, the narrowest parts were widened, and the temporary bridges were replaced by substantial sâl timber bridges. The upper portion of the road requires a considerable amount of work before it can be reported complete, but the lower portion may be treated as finished. Between Gauháti and Nongpoh the road was, however, very much cut up by carts during the monsoon, and was kept passable by a flooring of bamboo laid over the worst portions. It will be necessary to metal these parts as soon as funds permit, in order to make the road practicable for cart-traffic throughout the year. The expenditure of the year was Rs. 51,902, the total cost of the work amounting to Rs. 2,57,075, against an estimate of Rs. 2,61,907.

The expenditure incurred during the year on the maintenance of the Shillong Cart-road was Rs. 9,618, or for 53 miles at the rate of Rs. 181 per mile This has been found insufficient. The cost of repairs to the Shillong bridle-road, from Umiam to the junction of the Shillong Cart-road, and of the bridle-road from Shillong to Therriaghat, which is 47 miles in length, was Rs. 2,109, giving a rate of Rs. 45 per mile.

Sylhet and Cachar Trunk Road.

227. The usual repairs to this line of communication was [illegible] at a cost of Rs. 12,813, or at the rate of Rs. 183 per mile.

Road from Cachar to Manipur.

228. A new timber bridge on this road was satisfactorily completed during the year. The total outlay on the work was Rs. 16,912, against an estimate amounting to Rs. 16,953, and the expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 4,422.

The expenditure on the maintenance of the road was Rs. 1,500.

229. The only original work that was in progress during the year was the widening and completing the road from Koliabar to the steamer-station at Silghát, which is the principal outlet for the trade of the Nowgong district. This road is four and a half miles in length, of which one-third was completed. A timber bridge on it was also lengthened. The outlay of the year amounted to Rs. 7,505, against an estimate of Rs. 13,452.

Branch Roads.

The expenditure on maintenance of the branch roads in the valley districts of Assam was Rs. 19,934, giving, for eighty-nine miles, a rate of about Rs. 224 per mile. This high rate is due chiefly to the clearance of tracks to steamer-stations, and formation of brushwood roads across sands, and also to the maintenance of several rest-houses for travellers at those stations.

The following is the list of the roads :—

	Miles.	Rs.
Agea to Goálpára	7	3,478
Silghat to Koliabar	5	1,171
Dibrugarh to Dibrumukh	6	1,783
„ to Jaipur	35	5,596
Sibságar to Dikhumukh	8	1,692
Jorhát to Kokilamukh	10	2,000
Golághát to Neghiri Ting	18	4,214
Total ...	89	19,934

The expenditure of the year on other roads is given below :—

Háilákándi road	1,276
Companyganj „	1,223
Nága Hills „	5,803
Gáro Hills „	3,422

With the above amounts, the ordinary repairs were executed, and the roads maintained in passable order.

230. Under the head of "Travellers' accommodation," the following works were carried out: The dâk-bungalow compound at Dhubri was improved, the police hospital at Goálpára was converted into a dâk-bungalow, the dâk-bungalow at Tezpur was improved, a dak-bungalow was opened at Nowgong, the dâk-bungalow at Silghát was re-constructed, the staging-bungalow at Dikhumukh was re-built, the construction of a dâk-bungalow at Dibrugarh was commenced, and the dâk-bungalow at Silchar was nearly completed. The existing dâk-bungalows and serais on the provincial roads had the necessary repairs and renewals done to them, and the requisite complement of establishment and furniture was maintained during the year.

Travellers' accommodation.

LOCAL SERVICES.

231. The following is a detail of the works carried out under this head :—

The piling to the bridge was finished, and the superstructure is in progress. The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 2,862, the total outlay being Rs. 4,056, against an estimate amounting to Rs. 8,197.

Constructing a timber bridge over the Kakodonga river, on the Dhodor Ali.

Constructing the road from Sibságar to Disangmukh.

This was carried out from the Sibságar District Improvement Fund at a cost of Rs. 1,034, against an estimate sanctioned for Rs. 1,035.

232. *Local Roads.*—On the whole, there has been considerable improvement in the works connected with local roads.

The expenditure sanctioned for the year amounted to Rs. 1,63,219, and that actually incurred to Rs. 1,51,153, made up as follows:—

	Rs.
Original works	28,390
Repairs	1,04,909
Establishment	14,837
Refunds, contingencies, &c.	2,276
Total	1,51,153

The only original works of any importance on which expenditure was incurred were the hill roads from Darrang to Dewangiri, in the Kámrúp district, and from Golághát to Kohimah, *viâ* Wokha, in the Nága Hills. The Dewangiri road was traced and commenced some years ago; but until the year under review no establishment was available for going on with it. A good deal of the earthwork has now been completed, and some bridges constructed. The road is reported to have been open throughout, except in a few places, where heavy blasting or revetment walls are necessary. In the Nága Hills, the Wokha road was pushed on with, and a narrow path has now been cut for very nearly the whole length of the line.

In the other districts, the original works carried out were of an unimportant character, being chiefly extensions of existing roads, or the substitution of timber for bamboo bridges.

The total expenditure on original works, though small, is quite as much as is desirable; for, in the present condition of the Province, the money available can generally be more usefully expended on improving existing roads than in opening out new lines.

The ordinary annual repairs were fairly well executed in all districts. Members of the committees and other gentlemen rendered considerable assistance by undertaking or supervising road work.

It is chiefly due to such assistance that the cost of establishment bears so small a proportion to the total outlay. The only districts in which a regular executive establishment was maintained are Kámrúp and Cachar, which have each a District Engineer and some subordinate establishment. The Kámrúp District Engineer was appointed in September last (having been transferred from the Public Works Department, in which he held the rank of a Supervisor, first grade), and his appointment appears to have been followed by good results.

The districts of Goálpára, Nowgong, and Sylhet have each one overseer. In Goálpára, the road-cess (under Act X. of 1871) began to be levied from 1st October, 1876; but very little money was obtained from this source until quite the end of the year.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

233. The thorough drainage of the station of Gauháti has been determined upon, and the preparatory operations were commenced during the year.

POST-OFFICE.

234. The number of post-offices in the Province is steadily increasing, as will appear from the following statements:—

Existing on the 1st April, 1874.

Post-offices.	Letter-boxes.	Rural messengers.	Total number of postal receptacles.
38	5	11	54

Existing on the 31st March, 1877.

Post-offices.	Letter-boxes.	Rural messengers.	Total number of postal receptacles.
82	31	96	209

These figures show a considerable increase in the short space of three years. New offices are still being established all over the country, wherever there is a prospect of their being self-supporting. In the tea districts, the plan of opening small post-offices at populous places, and of employing rural messengers to visit distant villages and gardens, is working very satisfactorily.

235. At the close of March, 1877, there were 1,435 miles of Imperial mail lines in the Assam postal circle. This includes the Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar districts, which form part of the circle. These figures show an increase of 172 miles, as compared with last year's return. In the Chief Commissionership of Assam the Imperial mail lines extend over 1,263 miles.

The above does not include postal lines, worked by runners paid out of zemindari funds.

Many new lines are required, but the cost of employing runners is so heavy that great care has to be taken to prevent undue loss to the State.

236. The experiment made last year, of opening small rural post-offices along the north bank of the Brahmaputra, has worked satisfactorily during the year under report. The four post-offices opened in Kámrúp have been made permanent, and, in addition to these, one has been established in Darrang, 17 miles north of Tezpur, and three in Goálpára.

Parcel mails.

237. The bulk of parcels from Calcutta for Assam are carried by steamer as far as Gauháti, and from there are sent on by land. Parcels for Shillong from Bengal travel *viâ* Dacca and Sylhet.

238. The correspondence delivered through the post-office shows a very slight increase, in spite of the great extension of postal facilities. The following is a return for the past three years:—

Years.	Number of covers.
1874-75	1,700,205
1875-76	1,723,738
1876-77	1,775,725

This statement shows an increase of 1 and 3 per cent. only, respectively.

The comparative statement marked A overleaf shows the correspondence of the several districts.

A.

Comparative Statement showing the operations of the Postal Department for the years 1875-76 *and* 1876-77.

1	2		3		4		5		6		7
District.	Number of Post-offices.		Number of rural messengers.		Number of covers passing through the post-office.		Number of covers passing through the police.				Remarks.
					Number of covers received for delivery in the Post-offices.		Number of covers received by the police for delivery.		Posted.		
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	
Kámrúp	6	10	8	14	222,769	224,572	2,391	268	810	1	
Darrang	2	2	2	4	64,437	68,620	1,633	.....	.....	.....	
Nowgong	6	6	6	6	146,521	126,655	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Sibságar	13	14	9	12	310,734	273,020	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Lakhimpur	6	6	4	4	136,040	154,395	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Khási Hills	3	3	.....	.....	151,752	138,154	355	911	325	575	
Nága „	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Sylhet	14	18	18	30	218,711	278,129	33,361	20,806	30,691	19,474	
Cachar	8	10	6	14	247,339	260,610	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Goálpara	12	13	4	12	175,855	216,521	10,840	13,064	2,676	6,339	
Gáro Hills	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Total.....	70	82	57	96	1,674,158	1,740,676	49,580	35,049	34,502	26,389	

239. The revenue on unpaid correspondence has risen from Rs. 35,920 in 1875-76 to Rs. 38,455 in the year under review.

240. The following statement shows a steady increase in the proceeds from the sale of postage labels, which is very satisfactory: –

Years.	Amount. Rs.
1873-74	43,715
1874-75	51,276
1875-76	58,348
1876-77	62,529

The increase during the last three years has thus been over 17, 13, and 7 per cent. respectively.

241. The sale of service labels for official correspondence is exhibited in the following return:—

	Rs.
1873-74	12,857
1874-75	14,797
1875-76	15,816
1876-77	16,598

Registered publications.

242. At the end of 1875-76, there were nine publications in existence; out of these, five ceased to exist during the course of the year under report, and two new ones were started.

Prosecutions for offences against the Post-office Act.

243. Seventeen persons were prosecuted and punished for various offences committed against the Post-office Act, of these, eight were post-office servants.

District post.

244. Sylhet and Goálpára are the only regulation districts in the Province in which the Zamindari Dâk Act [VIII. (B.C.) of 1862] is in operation, and where a suitable sum has been set apart for the entertainment of a local postal establishment, the main object of which is the conveyance of police and revenue despatches.

In Sylhet, the local post-office is under the management of the General Post-office. For the year under review, a sum of Rs. 8,381 was sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner for the keeping up of the district post-offices in this district. At the beginning of the year, there were eight district post-offices and 477 miles of postal lines. During the year, one of these post-offices was, in consequence of its importance, converted into an Imperial office, and three new district post-offices were opened. Two new lines have also been opened during the year, and direct communication has been established with Mymensingh.

On the 1st of December last, the Deputy-Commissioner of Goálpára arranged to make over to the Postal Department a monthly sum of Rs. 175, to defray the expense of keeping up five district post-offices, six district rural messengers, and 56 miles of mail lines.

This new arrangement, which has been in operation since the 1st of December last, is working satisfactorily, as will be seen from the accompanying table, showing the correspondence delivered by the district post:—

District.	Number of covers passing through the district post-office.			
	Numbers of covers received for delivery.		Number of covers posted.	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
Goálpára	10,840	13,064	2,676	6,339

Kámrúp is the only other district in the Province where a small grant has been allowed to the Postal Department for the purpose of improving communications. A monthly subsidy of Rs. 60 from the District Improvement Fund enables two small mail lines to be kept up between Gauháti and the principal police-stations in the north of Kámrúp.

245. The following is a financial statement, showing the receipts and expenditure of the Postal Department in Assam during the past four years:—

Year.	Receipts.			Expenditure.			Excess of expenditure over receipts.
	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.
1873-74	82,978	13	7	1,08,912	11	7	25,934
1874-75	98,018	10	5	1,24,908	8	5	26,990
1875-76	1,09,455	4	3	1,26,528	0	0	17,073
1876-77	1,17,583	0	8	1,33,550	5	8	15,969

It will be observed that the excess of expenditure over receipts has been largely reduced in the last two years, in spite of the wide extension of the operations of the department.

TELEGRAPH.

246. The operations of this department during the period under review were of no slight importance, and the year saw the completion of the new line, extending from Gauháti to Dibrugarh, the survey for which had been undertaken during the preceding year. This line is 276 miles in length, and the party had to contend with many physical difficulties in the prosecution of the work. The work of construction commenced in October, 1876, and the last post was erected before the close of the year. The first office, that of Nowgong, was opened on the 1st January, 1877, and the last office, that of Dibrugarh, was

opened on the 31st March, 1877. The political value of this line, connecting, as it does, the head-quarters of the Province with districts where complications with savage border tribes are liable to happen at any moment, cannot be over-estimated, while, to that large portion of the mercantile community which is interested in the great tea industry of the Province, the connection with Calcutta by wire of the districts of the Assam Valley is a very considerable boon. The Chief Commissioner considers the completion of this extension line to have been one of the most important events of the year 1876-77, as regards Assam.

Much of the success of the undertaking was due to the fact of the removal of the divisional head-quarters from Purneah to Dhubri, and the consequent increased efficiency of the supervising agency.

It was intended to have commenced the work of re-construction of the line from Dhubri to Gauháti during the working season of 1876-77, but financial considerations rendered the postponement of this work necessary. The work will, it is hoped, be carried out during the ensuing working season.

The Chief Commissioner hopes that before long there will be direct telegraphic communication between Gauháti and Mangaldai. From the latter place, the line could be readily extended to Tezpur.

A branch extension of the line from Nigriting to Golághát is very desirable, as such extension would place a large number of planters in communication with Calcutta, and the Political Officer, Nága Hills, in easy communication with Shillong. Colonel Keatinge hopes that this work will receive the serious attention of the Telegraph Department.

The total amount realized on messages despatched from Assam during the year was Rs. 21,094, showing an increase of Rs. 2,468-10, as compared with the preceding year.

There were some thefts of telegraph material on the Sylhet-Cachar line, but, unfortunately, none of the offenders were detected.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

247. The following statements for 1875-76 and 1876-77 show that the net receipts of the Province on account of Imperial and Provincial Services, Local and Municipal Funds, were—

				Rs.
In 1875-76	...	...	...	67,86,265
In 1876-77	...	...	...	66,60,900
Net falling off in 1876-77			...	1,25,365

Account of the Gross and Net Revenue of the Province of Assam for the official year 1875-76.

Sources of Income.	Gross receipts.	Refunds and drawbacks.	Charges against income. Charges for collection, including cost of salt, &c., &c.	Allowances and assignments payable under treaties and engagements.	Allowances to district and village officers.	Total.	Net receipts.	Net charges.
Imperial.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Land revenue	33,73,576	18,179	7,37,504	57,496	..	8,13,179	25,60,397	..
Forests	61,869	1,154	62,243	....	..	63,397	....	1,528
Excise on spirits and drugs	14,14,561	960	11,610	....	..	12,570	14,01,991	..
Total "Territorial"	48,50,006	20,293	8,11,357	57,496	..	8,89,146	39,62,388	1,528
Stamps	5,15,716	1,458	9,080	....	..	10,538	5,05,178	..
Post-office	1,09,610	..	1,28,742	....	..	1,28,742	....	19,132
Law and justice .. Miscellaneous	6,909	..	....	....	..	....	6,909	..
Law and justice .. General fees, fines, and forfeitures.	78,234	12,162	....	....	..	12,162	66,072	..
Interest	12,616	..	....	....	..	....	12,616	..
Receipts on account of superannuation and compassionate allowances	884	..	....	....	..	....	884	..
Gain by exchange on transactions with London	.....	..	....	....	..	....	....	..
Miscellaneous	36,119	9,226	....	....	..	9,226	26,893	..
Total Imperial	56,10,094	43,139	9,49,179	57,496	..	10,49,814	45,80,940	20,660
Provincial.								
Imperial allotment for Provincial Services	17,69,763	..	....	....	..	....	17,69,763	..
Departmental receipts. Jails	32,953	..	....	....	..	....	32,953	..
Departmental receipts. Registration	22,060	502	....	....	..	502	21,558	..
Departmental receipts. Police	4,277	5	....	....	..	5	4,272	..
Departmental receipts. Education	25,658	526	....	....	..	526	25,132	..
Departmental receipts. Medical	1,047	..	....	....	..	....	1,047	..
Departmental receipts. Printing	1,242	73	....	....	..	73	1,169	..
Miscellaneous receipts	5,042	230	....	....	..	230	4,812	..
Public Works	3,712	..	....	....	..	....	3,712	..
Total Provincial	18,65,754	1,336	....	....	..	1,336	18,64,418	..
Local Funds.								
Assam Local Funds	54,309	..	....	....	..	....	54,309	..
District Improvement Fund	1,85,168	..	....	....	..	....	1,85,168	..
District Post Fund	9,264	..	....	....	..	....	9,264	..
Cantonment "	3,037	..	....	....	..	....	3,037	..
Assam Williamson Educational Endowment Fund	4,718	..	....	....	..	....	4,718	..
Total Local Funds	2,56,496	..	....	....	..	....	2,56,496	..
Total Provincial Service and Local Funds	21,22,250	1,336	....	....	..	1,336	21,20,914	..
Municipalities	1,05,071	..	....	....	..	....	1,05,071	..
Gross Receipts	78,37,415	44,475	9,49,179	57,496	..	10,51,150	68,06,925	20,660
Deduct net charges							20,660	
Net Receipts							67,86,265	

A.—*Finance*, 1.—*Account of the Gross and Net Revenue of the Province of Assam for the official year* 1876-77.

Sources of Income.	Gross receipts.	Refunds and drawbacks.	Charges against income. Charges for collection, including cost of salt, opium, maintaining productive works.	Allowances and assignments payable under treaties and engagements.	Allowances to district and village officers and charitable grants.	Total.	Net receipts.	Net charges.
Imperial.	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Land revenue	32,89,311	4,528	7,98,836	46,973	..	8,50,337	24,38,974	..
Forests	81,568	163	89,757	....	..	89,920	....	8,352
Excise on spirits and drugs	14,46,368	230	11,642	....	..	11,872	14,34,496	..
Total "Territorial"	48,17,247	4,921	9,00,235	46,973	..	9,52,129	38,73,470	8,352
Stamps	4,96,821	1,496	9,462	....	..	10,958	4,85,863	..
Post-office	1,17,530	..	1,35,901	....	..	1,35,901	....	18,371
Law and justice .. Miscellaneous	8,809	..	....	....	..	....	8,809	..
Law and justice .. General fees, fines, and forfeitures.	80,959	19,957	....	....	..	19,957	61,002	..
Interest	7,186	..	....	....	..	....	7,186	..
Receipts in aid of superannuation and compassionate allowances	792		....	....	..	....	792	..
Gain by exchange on transactions with London	50	..	....	....	..	....	50	..
Miscellaneous	57,369	11,080	....	....	..	11,080	46,289	..
Total Imperial	55,86,763	37,454	10,45,598	46,973	..	11,30,025	44,88,461	26,723
Provincial.								
Imperial allotment from Provincial Services.	16,69,788	..	....	....	..	....	16,69,788	..
Departmental receipts.. Jail	33,299	..	....	....	..	....	33,299	..
Departmental receipts.. Registration	22,221	547	....	....	..	547	21,674	..
Departmental receipts.. Police	6,629	125	....	....	..	125	6,504	..
Departmental receipts.. Education	22,927	..	....	....	..	....	22,927	..
Departmental receipts.. Medical	1,889	..	....	....	..	....	1,889	..
Departmental receipts.. Printing	2,904	..	....	....	..	....	2,904	..
Miscellaneous receipts	2,122	669	....	....	..	669	1,453	..
Public Works "	3,651	..	....	....	..	....	3,651	..
Total Provincial	17,65,430	1,341	....	....	..	1,341	17,64,089	..
Local Funds.								
Assam Local Fund	62,054	..	....	....	..	....	62,054	..
District Improvement Fund	2,70,517	..	....	....	..	....	2,70,517	..
District Post Fund	9,301	..	....	....	..	....	9,301	..
Cantonment Fund	3,233	..	....	....	..	....	3,233	..
Assam Williamson Educational Endowment Fund.	4,832	..	....	....	..	....	4,832	..
Total Local Funds	3,49,937	..	....	....	..	....	3,49,937	..
Grand Total Provincial Services and Local Funds.	21,15,367	1,341	....	....	..	1,341	21,14,026	..
Municipalities	90,136	..	....	....	..	....	90,136	..
Gross Receipts	77,92,266	38,795	10,45,598	46,973	..	11,31,366	66,87,623	26,723
				Deduct net charges ..			26,723	
				Net receipts			66,60,900	

The above-noted falling off is thus distributed:—

Class of Revenue.	Net revenue in—		Difference in—	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	More.	Less.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial	45,60,280	44,56,738	.....	1,03,542
Provincial	18,64,418	17,64,089	.....	1,00,329
Local Funds	2,56,496	3,49 937	93,441	.....
Municipal Funds	1,05,071	90,136	.....	14,935
Total	67,86,265	66,60,900	93,441	2,18,806
			1,25,365	

These figures require, however, some explanation. In 1875-76, Deputy-Commissioners of Lakhimpur and Kámrúp omitted to deduct from land revenue and to credit to Local Funds the 1-17th assignment granted to the latter for local improvements. The amount aggregates Rs. 60,600 This omission has been rectified in 1876-77, and throws out the comparison between the two years by double that sum. If it be eliminated, the falling off of Rs. 1,25,365 will be thus distributed:—

	Revenue, 1876-77, compared with 1875-76.	
	More.	Less.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial Services	17,658	.....
Provincial Services	.....	1,00,329
Local Funds	.....	27,759
Municipal Funds	.....	14,935
	17,658	1,43,023
	1,25,365	

The small increase under Imperial Services is due to a variety of causes There is a net increase under the three heads classed as "Territorial revenue," *viz.*, land revenue, forests, and excise, as shown below, of Rs. 25,000:—

	1875-76. Rs.	1876-77. Rs.
Net receipts	39,62,388	38,73,470
Net charge	1,528	8,352
	39,60,860	38,65,118
Error of Rs. 60,600	— 60,600	+ 60,600
	39,00,260	39,25,718

This would have been much larger but for the growing expenditure of the Forest Department, which has absorbed all the forest revenue, including that collected by civil officers, and Rs. 8,300 besides. On the other hand, the cost of the settlement of Jaintiá, in the district of Sylhet, and of the la-kheraj survey, in the Assam Valley, are exceptional items of expenditure, and are not really charges of 1876-77, though the money was spent in that year.

The decrease under Provincial Services of Rs. 1,00,329 is owing to a decrease in the allotment* from Imperial revenues. In 1875-76, there was a large deficit, expenditure having unavoidably exceeded income. This deficit was met by a special allotment from the Government of India, which was not repeated in 1876-77.

	Rs.
* 1875-76	17,69,763
1876-77	16,69,788
	99,975

In 1875-76, also, certain recoveries were made from the Bengal Government on account of balances of Local and Municipal funds outstanding on 1st April, 1874. No such recoveries being again made in 1876-77, the decrease in that year connected with those funds is thus accounted for.

248. The subjoined statement will show at a glance the chief Imperial heads which brought in a net revenue or surplus to the Administration in 1875-76:—

Sources of Income.	Gross receipts.	Refunds and drawbacks.	Charges for collection, including pay of Deputy-Assistant and Extra-Assistant-Commissioners.	Allowances and assignments under treaties and engagements.	Total.	Net receipts.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Land revenue	33,75,576	18,179	7,37,504	57,496	8,13,179	25,60,397
Excise	14,14,561	960	11,610	.....	12,571	14,01,991
Stamps	5,15,716	1,458	9,080	.....	10,538	5,05,178
Law and justice: Miscellaneous	6,909	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,909
Law and justice: General fees, fines, &c.	78,284	12,162	.....	.....	12,162	66,072
Interest	12,616	.....	.....	.....	.....	12,616
Miscellaneous	36,119	9,226	.....	.....	9,226	26,893

There were only two Imperial heads in 1875-76 in which the charges of administration and collection exceeded the receipts, *viz*:—

	Gross receipts.	Refunds and drawbacks.	Charges for collection and administration.	Total.	Net charge.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Forests	61,869	1,154	62,243	63,397	1,528
Post-office	1,09,610	.....	1,28,742	1,28,742	19,132

The combined deficit under both the above heads amounted in round figures to Rs. 20,000.

In 1876-77 the chief surplus Imperial heads were—

Heads.	Gross receipts.	Refunds and drawbacks.	Charges for collection, including pay of Deputy-Assistant and Extra-Assistant Commissioners.	Allowances and assignments under treaties and engagements.	Total.	Net receipts.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Land revenue	32,89,311	4,528	7,98,836	46,973	8,50,337	24,38,974
Excise	14,46,368	230	11,642	....	11,872	14,34,496
Stamps	4,96,821	1,496	9,462	....	10,958	4,85,863
Law and justice .. Miscellaneous	8,809	....	....	....	....	8,809
Law and justice .. General fees and fines.	80,959	19,957	....	...	19,957	61,002
Interest	7,186	....	....	....	....	7,186
Miscellaneous	57,369	11,080	....	....	11,080	46,289

and the two deficit heads were—

						Net deficit.
Forests	81,668	163	89,757	....	89,920	8,352
Post-office	1,17,530	....	1,35,901	....	1,35,901	18,371

The net transactions of the two years are compared below:—

	Net surplus.	1876-77.	1875-76.
		Rs.	Rs.
Land revenue	Net surplus.	24,38,974	25,60,397
Excise	Ditto.	14,34,496	14,01,991
Stamps	Ditto.	4,85,863	5,05,178
Law and justice—			
Miscellaneous	Ditto.	8,809	6,909
Fees and fines	Ditto.	61,002	66,072
Interest	Ditto.	7,186	12,616
Miscellaneous	Ditto.	46,289	26,893
Forests	Net charge.	8,352	1,528
Post-office	Ditto.	18,371	19,132

The falling off in the surplus land revenue has been already explained as having been caused by an omission to debit in the accounts of the preceding year the 1-17th assignment for local improvements, amounting to Rs. 60,600; rectifying this mistake, there is a difference of only Rs. 223 in the net surplus land revenue of the two years. There is an important decrease of Rs. 20,000 in the stamp revenue, which is variously accounted for by various officers. It is remarkable that a similar decrease appears to have occurred in most other parts of India, and has been ascribed in some provinces to evasion of stamp duty. Similar causes may, perhaps, have been at work here. The subject is receiving attention.

249. The following statement still further exhibits the financial position of Assam in 1876-77 :—

A.—Finance, 2.—Account of Expenditure from the net income of the Province of Assam for the official year 1876-77 and that preceding it.

Subject of Expenditure.			Amounts.	
			1875-76.	1876-77.
Imperial.			Rs.	Rs.
Interest on Savings Banks and other accounts			2,660	3,186
Civil and Political establishments and contingencies—	1875-76.	1876-77.	2,78,191	3,07,180
Administration	1,66,342	1,79,699		
Minor establishment	22,504	15,627		
Ecclesiastical	12,129	17,006		
Medical	57,413	65,069		
Political	19,803	29,779		
Total	2,78,191	3,07,180		
Judicial charges, courts, &c.			4,83,220	4,84,367
Superannuation and retired allowances			33,173	37,890
Miscellaneous			13,142	10,705
Allotments for Provincial Services			17,69,763	16,69,788
Total Imperial			25,80,149	25,13,116
PROVINCIAL SERVICES AND LOCAL FUNDS.				
Provincial.				
Jail			1,22,237	1,15,742
Registration			21,622	18,657
Police			5,71,165	5,91,599
Education			1,83,421	1,68,104
Medical			18,398	30,322
Printing			24,955	18,822
Minor establishment			26,560	19,230
Office rents, rates and taxes			5,500	7,044
Miscellaneous			34,835	28,036
Contributions			17,797	30,928
Public Works			8,49,504	6,49,562
Total Provincial			18,75,994	16,78,046
Local Funds.				
Assam Local Funds			36,824	53,769
Improvement Fund			3,32,393	2,78,039
District Post Fund			9,489	9,498
Cantonment Fund			1,603	2,673
Assam Williamson Educational Endowment Fund			4,647	5,334
Total, Local Funds			3,84,956	3,49,313
Total, Provincial Services and Local Funds			22,60,950	20,27,359
Municipalities			63,295	75,948
Grand Total			49,04,394	46,16,423
Net receipts as in Statement No. 1			67,86,265	66,60,900
Surplus			18,81,771	20,44,477

The preceding statement shows the expenditure of the Province from its net income. It will be observed that in 1875-76 there was a surplus on account of Imperial and Provincial Services and Local and Municipal Funds of Rs. 18,81,711; while in 1876-77 the surplus on account of these funds was Rs. 20,44,477, showing an improvement in the latter year of Rs. 1,62,766. The figures may be thus distributed:—

Class of revenue and charges.	1875-76.				1876-77.			
	Net revenue, Statement A 1.	Expenditure, Statement A 2.	Surplus.	Deficit.	Net revenue, Statement A 1.	Expenditure Statement A 2.	Surplus.	Deficit.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Imperial	45,60,280	25,80,149	19,80,131	.....	44,56,738	25,13,116	19,43,622	.....
Provincial	18,64,418	18,75,994	.....	11,576	17,64,089	16,78,046	86,043	.....
Local	2,56,496	3,84,956	.....	1,28,460	3,49,937	3,49,313	624	.....
Municipal	1,05,071	63,295	41,776	.....	90,136	75,948	14,188	.....
Total.....	67,86,265	49,04,394	20,21,907	1,40,036	66,60,900	46,16,423	20,44,477	.....
			18,81,871				20,44 477	

Under Imperial revenue, there was a surplus in 1875-76 of Rs. 19,80,131; but from this must be deducted the erroneous credit of Rs. 60,600, referred to above. The same amount must be added also to the surplus of 1876-77, which has been reduced by having to bear the deduction of revenue necessary to amend this error. The correct comparison between the two years is as shown below:—

	Rs.
1875-76	19,19,531
1876-77	20,04,222
Improvement in 1876-77	84,691

This improvement is thus accounted for—

Improvement in net revenue	17,000
Decreased expenditure	67,000
	84,000

The decreased expenditure referred to above is accounted for by the statement already made,—that in 1875-76 there was a large Provincial Service deficit, which was met by an increased allotment, which is debitable to Imperial Services. No such allotment was made in 1876-77. This accounts for a decreased expenditure of one lakh, so that there has been an increase under other heads of about Rs. 33,000.

The increased expenditure of Rs. 33,000 may thus be apportioned, *viz.* :—

	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.
Administration	13,000	.....
Minor Departments	.....	7,000
Ecclesiatical	5,000	
Medical	8,000	
Political	10,000	
Law and justice	1,000	
Superannuation	5,000	
Miscellaneous	.....	2,000
Total	42,000	9,000
	33,000	

Rs. 8,000 of the increase under "Administration" are accounted for by the increase in the pay of the Secretary from Rs. 16,000 to Rs. 24,000 per annum. The remainder is on account of increased charges for establishments, &c.

Under "Minor Departments," the decrease is accounted for by the discontinuance of the coal explorations in Assam, and by the transfer of the charges on account of the Sadiya fair to Provincial Services.

The increase under "Ecclesiastical" is owing to the promotion of the Shillong chaplain from the rank of junior to that of senior chaplain, to the re-appointment of a minister at Dibrugarh, and to the increase in the pay of the minister at Cachar.

Under "Medical" the increase is due to the employment during the year of officers of higher grade pay than in 1875-76. Some of the officers employed in 1875-76 have earned increments, which tend to swell the total charge to the Province for medical officers.

Under "Provincial Services" the chief difference is under Public Works. The expenditure was nearly two lakhs less in 1876-77 than in 1875-76. The Chief Commissioner had received instructions to bring the expenditure within the assets, and the strictest economy was ordered under every head. Compared with 1875-76, there is a saving in 1876-77 under—

*1875-76, Deficit 11,576
1876-77, Surplus 86,043

Better in 1876-77, Rs. 97,619

	Rs.
Registration	2,965
Jails	6,495
Education	15,317
Printing	6,133
Minor establishments	7,330
Miscellanous	6,799
Public Works	1,99,942

and an increase under—

Police	20,434
Medical	11,924
Office rent	1,544
Contributions	13,131

The increase under "Police" is accounted for by payments made for rifles issued from the arsenal at Fort William, and by the appointment of an Inspector-General of Police. Special additions to the Provincial Service allotment were made by the Government of India for these services. The increase under "Medical" is accounted for by the establishment of a lunatic asylum at Tezpur, and by arrear charges for medicines.

Under "Office rent," there was a charge of Rs. 1,304 for the settlement office at Sylhet; and under "Contributions" there are some arrear charges.

It will be noticed that there was a deficit under Local Funds in 1875-76 and a surplus in 1876-77. This is chiefly due to increased revenue. The expenditure also has been kept down where economy was necessary. Coming to details of these funds, it may be mentioned that the expenditure of the Assam Local Fund in 1876-77 shows an increase over the expenditure in 1875-76, *viz.* :—

	Rs.
1876-77	53,769
1875-76	36,824
	16,945

the increased expenditure being warranted by the flourishing condition of the fund. The chief items which have caused this increase are as follows. A net sum of Rs. 12,930 was debited to this fund on account of the tonga and bullock train service, *viz.*:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Charges	18,148	7	9
Receipts	5,217	13	6
Net	12,930	10	3

A contribution of Rs. 5,000 was also given from the Assam Local Fund to the Nága Hills District Improvement Fund. The charges of the District Improvement Fund, on the other hand, show a decrease, thus :—

	Rs.
1875-76	3,32,393
1876-77	2,78,039
Decrease ...	54,354

The expenditure upon Public Works in the former year was abnormally high, owing to the large credit balances standing over from 1874-75. The remaining heads call for no remark.

250. The following statement shows the "ways and means" of the Province for 1876-77:—

A.—Finance, 3.—Account of Cash Receipts and Disbursements of the treasuries of the Province of Assam for the year 1876-77.

Receipts.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	Rs.		Rs.
Cash balance of last year	31,48,274		
IMPERIAL.		IMPERIAL.	
Net revenue, as per statement No. I. (Rs. 44,83,461)	44,56,738	Expenditure as per Statement No. 2	25,13,116
Less revenue charges against income, as per No. I. (Rs. 26,723)			
Repayments of miscellaneous advances and advances to cultivators	65,109	Miscellaneous advances and advances to cultivators	64,484
Deposits	5,05,006	Repayments of deposits	4,30,310
Suspense accounts	7,599	Suspense accounts	11,420
Bills drawn on other treasuries. Local	1,93,355	Bills discharged on other treasuries. Local	1,76,954
Bills drawn on other treasuries. Other Governments	9,87,104	Bills discharged on other treasuries. Other Governments	64,20,468
Local cash remittances	21,34,871	Local cash remittances	21,35,417
Public Works Department	9,09,482	Public Works Department	9,31,609
Ditto Telegraph	28,705	Ditto Telegraph	75,760
Other Governments, Money Orders	2,84,417	Other Governments, Money Order	1,29,483
Civil. Miscellaneous	43,78,056	Civil. Miscellaneous	5,44,463
Military Department	1,65,923	Military Department	9,83,950
Total Imperial	1,41,16,365	Total Imperial	1,44,17,434
PROVINCIAL SERVICES AND LOCAL FUNDS.		PROVINCIAL SERVICES AND LOCAL FUNDS.	
Receipts, as per Statement No. I.	21,14,026	Expenditure, as per Statement No. 2	20,27,359
Advances recoverable	2,378	Advances recoverable	1,573
Suspense account	53,195	Suspense account	51,582
Permanent advances	.....	Permanent advances	.....
Cash recoveries	2,142	Cash recoveries	2,142
Total Provincial Services and Local Funds	21,71,741	Total, Provincial Services and Local Funds	20,82,656
Municipalities, as per Statement No. 1	90,136	Municipalities, as per Statement No. 2.	75,948
Grand Total	1,95,26,516	Grand Total	1,65,76,038
Deduct disbursements	1,65,76,038		
Cash balance at end of the year	29,50,478		

The year, it will be observed, opened with a cash balance of Rs. 31,48,274. It met an aggregate expenditure of Rs. 1,65,76,038, its total receipts from all sources were Rs. 1,95,26,346, and the closing cash balance was therefore Rs. 29,50,478. The peculiarities of the resource arrangements of Assam having been explained in the last Administration Report, it is not necessary to go over the same ground again. It is sufficient to say, in connection with this subject, that in 1876-77 the cash remittances in coin and notes to and from the Province were as follows :—

	Rs.
Received from Bengal	30,09,695
India	7,03,347
Total	37,13,042
Sent to India in large notes	2,89,000
Total	34,24,042

This shows a falling off from the previous year. The figures for the past three years are—

	Rs.
1874-75	32,37,000
1875-76	41,18,180
1876-77	34,24,042

The supply-bill transactions, however, show an increase, thus—

	Rs.
Paid	63,19,113
Issued	7,53,660
Net	55,65,453

The last three years' figures are—

	Rs.
1874-75	46,32,000
1875-76	48,00,940
1876-77	55,65,453

The net sum supplied to the Military Department was rather less than in previous years. The figures for the three years are—

	Rs.
1874-75	10,52,030
1875-76	8,51,910
1876-77	8,18,027

The supplies to the Telegraph Department were, on the other hand, larger than usual, owing, probably, to the capital charges for extending the line towards Dibrugarh.

The following are the figures for the three years :—

	Rs.
1874-75	24,220
1875-76	21,140
1876-77	47,055

Imperial Civil Revenue.

251. In the foregoing paragraphs, the accounts of the Province have been dealt with as a whole. They will now be explained more in detail, following the arrangement in last year's report, under the separate heads of—

(1.) Imperial Civil Revenue.
(2.) Ditto Expenditure.
(3.) Provincial Revenue.
(4.) Local Funds.
(5.) Municipal Revenue.

252. The following statement exhibits the Imperial civil revenue of 1876-77, as compared with that of 1875-76:—

	Head of Revenue.	1875-76.	1876-77.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.	Land revenue	33,73,576	32,89,311	....	84,265
III.	Forests	61,869	81,568	19,699	....
IV.	Excise on spirits and drugs	14,14,561	14,46,368	31,807	....
IX.	Stamps	5,15,716	4,96,821	....	18,895
XI.	Post-offices	1,09,610	1,17,530	7,920	....
XIII.	Law and justice	85,143	89,768	4,625	....
XVII.	Interest	12,616	7,186	....	5,430
XVIII.	Receipts in aid of superannuation, &c.	884	792	....	92
XIX.	Gain by exchange on transactions with London	....	50	50	....
XX.	Miscellaneous	36,119	57,369	21,250	....
	Total	56,10,094	55,86,763	85,351	1,08,682
			Net decrease		23,331

Land Revenue.—This decrease has already been explained as being apparent only, being due to an omission to debit to this head in the preceding year's accounts a sum of Rs. 60,600, which should have been credited to Local Funds. This sum has accordingly been debited against the revenue of 1876-77. The real amount of land revenue in 1875-76 was therefore Rs. 33,12,976, and for 1876-77 Rs. 33,49,911, showing an actual increase of Rs. 36,935.

Forests.—Increase, Rs. 19,699, owing to increased revenue from timber removed from the forests by consumers. The Forest Department now charges all other public departments for all timber cut for them on Government land. Such charges were not made in previous years, hence the increase.

Excise.—Increase, Rs. 31, 807. This increase is on account of "License and distillery fees and duties on sale of liquors and drugs." The sale of excise opium was about the same in both years.

Stamps.—This decrease has already been noticed.

Post-office.—Increase, Rs. 7,920, owing to improved revenue caused by extended operations. There was, however, a *per contra* increase in expenditure of Rs. 7,159.

Law and Justice.—Increase, Rs. 4,625. About Rs. 2,000 of this increase is on account of "Sale-proceeds of unclaimed and escheated property." The remainder is under "Magisterial fines."

Interest.—Decrease, Rs. 5,430. Receipts under this head vary greatly from year to year. Interest is received only on account of arrears of "Sale-proceeds of waste lands." As the balances are paid up, receipts under this head will decrease.

Miscellaneous.—Increase, Rs. 21,253, due to increased receipts on account of survey expenses in connection with waste land applications, and on account of exceptional recoveries of law charges in the district of Goálpára.

IMPERIAL CIVIL EXPENDITURE.

253. In the table below the Imperial Civil expenditure in 1876-77 is compared with the same expenditure in 1875-76 :—

Head of Charge.	1875-76.	1876-77.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Interests on savings banks and other accounts	2,660	3,186	526	....
Refunds and drawbacks	43,139	37,454	....	5,685
Land revenue	7,37,504	7,98,836	61,332	....
Forests	62,243	89,757	27,514	....
Excise	11,610	11,642	32	....
Stamps	9,080	9,462	382	....
Post-office	1,28,742	1,35,901	7,159	....
Administration	1,66,342	1,79,699	13,357	....
Minor departments	22,504	15,627	....	6,877
Law and justice	4,83,220	4,84,367	1,147	....
Ecclesiastical	12,129	17,006	4,877	....
Medical	57,413	65,069	7,656	....
Political Agencies	19,803	29,779	9,976	....
Allowances and assignments	57,496	46,973	....	10,523
Superannuations	33,173	37,890	4,717	....
Miscellaneous	13,142	10,705	....	2,437
Allotment for Provincial Services	17,69,763	16,69,788	....	99,975
Total	36,39,963	36,43,141	1,28,675	1,25,497
		Net increase	3,178	

Refunds and drawbacks.—Decrease, Rs. 5,685. In 1875-76 the refunds on account of land revenue were exceptionally large. This fact, and the ordinary fluctuations in this very uncertain item of charge, account for the decrease in 1876-77.

Land revenue.—The increase has already been explained.

Forests.—Increase, Rs. 27,514. Rs. 12,000 of this increase represent increased charges on account of "Conservancy and works." The remainder (Rs. 16,000 in round numbers) represents increased establishment charges. It is due to extension of the operations of the Department.

Post-office.—Increase, Rs. 7,159, owing to extended operations.

The increased charges under "Administration," "Ecclesiastical," and "Medical," and the decrease under "Minor Departments," have already been explained in detail, and the trifling decrease under "Law and Justice" requires no explanation.

Political Agencies.—Increase, Rs. 9,976. The cost to the Province on account of the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi was Rs. 11,800. The cost of the public rejoicings on the 1st January was Rs. 3,700. Total, Rs. 15,500. The difference between this amount and the increase shown in the accounts under the whole major head is caused by decreased "Miscellaneous political charges for diet of hill tribes, &c."

Allowances and assignments.—Decrease, Rs. 10,523 A decrease of Rs. 6,000 is owing to Rajah Kandarpesvar Singh having drawn his

pension at Calcutta. The remainder of the decrease is, apparently, due to the fact that some arrears were paid in 1875-76. No such arrear payments having been made in 1876-77, there is a comparative decrease.

None of the other items call for remark here.

I.—LAND REVENUE.

Ordinary land revenue.

254. The number of land revenue paying estates on the revenue-roll at the close of the year under report was 5,08,857, being an increase of 24,153 over the figures of the preceding year. The increase is principally due to extension of cultivation. Of the above-mentioned estates, 50,842 are permanently settled, all situated in Sylhet, except 17 in Goálpára and one in the Gáro Hills, and the rest are settled temporarily, mostly under the annual Assam settlements.

The total demand on account of land revenue for the year was Rs. 32,15,410, of which Rs. 30,30,994 represent the current demand and Rs. 1,84,416, the arrear demand on account of the previous year. The current demand, as compared with that of the previous year, shows an increase of Rs. 1,13,911, due to the extension of cultivation and to the re-settlement of estates at enhanced rentals. Out of the total demand, Rs. 30,52,750 were collected and Rs. 4,689 remitted, leaving at the close of the year a balance of Rs. 1,57,971, against a balance of Rs. 1,80,385 in the previous year.

Of the total balance, Rs. 1,04,420 in Sylhet were not recoverable by law within the year, Rs. 4,263 are irrecoverable, and the remainder (Rs. 49,288*) is in course of realization. A large portion of this sum has been realized since the close of the year. The districts of Kámrúp, Darrang, Nowgong, and Sibságar, and the hill districts, show a clear balance-sheet.

*Cachar	.....	5,290
Sylhet	.....	30,683
Goálpára	.....	9,627
Kamrúp	.....	1
Lakhimpur	.....	3,687
		49,288

Miscellaneous land revenue.

255. The main sources from which miscellaneous land revenue is derived in this Province are (1) elephant mehals, (2) fisheries, (3) lime-quarries, (4) poll-tax, (5) house-tax, (6) fines on fiscal officers. In Assam Proper the current demand of the year under this head was Rs. 2,23,650, or Rs. 65,146 less than the amount payable in the previous year. The decrease is partly due to the fact of all the elephant mehals in Darrang, Nowgong, and Sibságar, and some of the mehals in Lakhimpur, having been allowed to rest during the year, and partly to the exclusion from the demand of 1876-77 of the sums which, though due on account of the year, were not legally recoverable before its close.

Of the total demand, inclusive of arrears, a sum of Rs. 2,46,234 was collected, and Rs. 964 were remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 37,272, distributed as follows:—

		Rs.
(1.)	Elephant mehals	2,800
(2.)	Fishery ditto	16,192
(3.)	Poll-tax	1,562
(4.)	House-tax	1,504
(5.)	Fines under Act XX. of 1848	15,214

The balances under the heads (2) and (5) were chiefly due from Sylhet, and could not be realized, owing to all the formalities in connection with the procedure under Act VII. (B.C.) of 1868 not having been completed within the year. The whole of this amount, as well as the amount under head "(1) Elephant mehals," is in course of realization. Of the amount under the head "(4) House-tax," Rs. 209 have been realized since the close of the year, Rs. 104 remitted, and Rs. 758 are in course of realization. The remainder of the balance, and the whole amount under head "(3) Poll-tax," is of doubtful recovery.

II.—SOURCES OF IMPERIAL REVENUE OTHER THAN LAND.

SECTION I.—OPIUM.

256. The revenue realized from opium in this Province consists of (1) the net price of opium supplied by the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, for sale in this Province, and (2) of the fees levied on licenses for the retail vend of the drug, and of the preparations therefrom (madat and chandu).

During the year under review, the collections under these heads amounted to Rs. 12,33,300,* or nearly 86 per cent. of the total excise revenue of the Province. The amount realized in 1875-76 was Rs. 12,25,141.‡

	Rs.
* Net price of opium ..	11,82,594
License-fees—	
Opium ..... †	45,546
Madat	2,624
Chandu	2,536
Total....	12,33,300

† Of this sum Rs. 12,712 were collected in advance for 1877-78.

‡ Inclusive of Rs. 2,046 arrear collections on account of past years, and Rs. 1,284 realized in advance for 1876-77.

Deducting from the above total collections the arrear realizations and the advance payments on the one hand, and adding to them, on the other hand, the amounts realized in advance in previous years on account of the years under comparison, the following figures are obtained:—

	Rs.
1875-76	12,23,510 (*a*)
1876-77	12,21,871 (*b*)

	Rs.	
	(*a*) 12,25,141	total collections.
Deduct	2,046	arrear collections.
and	1,284	realized in advance for 1876-77.
	12,21,811	
Add	1,698	revenue of 1875-76 paid in advance in 1874-75
and	1	current balance unrealized.
Total	12,23,510	

	Rs.	
	(b) 12,33,300	total collections.
Deduct	12,712	advance for 1877-78.
and	1	arrear collection.
	12,20,587	
Add.....	1,284	revenue of 1876-77 realized in advance in 1875-76.
Total..	12,21,871	

Deducting from these amounts, again, the cost of conveying opium which was in 1875-76 Rs. 13,764, and in 1876-77 Rs. 12,319, the net revenue of the two years will be as follows:—

	Rs.
1875-76	12,09,746
1876-77	12,09,552
Decrease in 1876-77.....	194

Thus, on the whole, the net revenue has remained almost stationary. This result is satisfactory, in so far that, while the consumption has, as will be presently seen, been checked, the revenue has not diminished to any appreciable extent, and so, as regards opium, the object of the excise system, which is to raise as large an amount of revenue from intoxicating liquors and drugs as is compatible with the discouragement of their use, has been attained.

257. 1,689 maunds of opium were imported during the year under review; 909 maunds 24 seers remained in store at the close of the preceding year; the total quantity in store during the year was thus 2,598 maunds 24 seers; of this quantity, 1,793 maunds 38 seers were issued to retail vendors during the year, leaving at its close 804 maunds 26 seers in stock.

258. The following table shows the number of shops open, and the quantity of opium sold, in each district of the Province during the last two years :—

District.	Number of shops.		Quantity sold.			
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.		1876-77.	
			Mds.	Srs.	Mds.	Srs.
Cachar	74	54	50	27	43	17
Sylhet	119	97	57	1	49	1
Goálpára	172	141	74	16	63	35
Kámrúp	563	504	277	25	252	8
Darrang	514	457	255	33	252	16
Nowgong	491	448	260	30	263	38
Sibságar	750	709	498	26	478	39
Lakhimpur	422	376	394	4	386	25
Hill districts	43	47	5	36	3	19
Total	3,151	2,833	1,874	38	1,793	38

There was a general falling off, both in the number of shops and in the consumption of the drug. This was owing to the enhancement, during the year, of the selling price of opium from Rs. 23 to Rs. 24 in

the Assam Valley districts, in order to equalize the price throughout the Province, and to the raising of the rate of license-fee from Rs. 12 to Rs. 18 per annum, with a view to reduce the number of shops for the sale of opium, which seemed excessively large, undue facility for obtaining the drug being thus afforded. These measures were adopted as a preliminary to the introduction, in the following year, as desired by the Government of India, of the system of sale by auction of the monopoly of the vend of opium.

Out of the 1,793 mds. 38 srs. of opium issued during the year, 483 mds. 33 srs., in the Assam Valley, were sold at Rs. 23 per seer, and 1,310 mds. 5 srs. were sold at Rs. 24, yielding a gross revenue of Rs. 17,02,839.

Deducting from this amount the prime cost (Rs. 5,20,245), at Rs. 7¼ per seer, the net sale-proceeds credited to the Province amounted, as shown in the following table, to Rs. 11,82,594, against Rs. 11,83,203 in 1875-76. Rs. 34,118 were due on account of the 2,833 licenses which were in force during the year, and a sum of Rs. 415 was outstanding in the district of Sibságar since 1874-75. Thus, the total amount of license-fees to be collected up to 31st March, 1877, was Rs. 34,533; of this amount, Rs. 1,284 had been paid in advance in 1875-76, and of the balance, Rs. 32,834, together with a sum of Rs. 12,712 on account of the year 1877-78, were realized in 1876-77. The sum of Rs. 415 referred to above as outstanding from 1874-75 proved irrecoverable, and has been remitted since the close of the year.

The collections for the past year, as contrasted with 1875-76, are shown below:—

District.	License-fees.		Net sale-proceeds.		Total.	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar	825	636	32,845	29,095	33,670	29,731
Sylhet	994	1,479	38,800	34,974	39,794	36,453
Goálpára	1,929	1,677	46,872	42,042	48,801	43,719
Kámrúp	6,575	5,862	1,74,905	1,66,481	1,81,480	1,72,343
Darrang	5,743	6,960*	1,61,170	1,66,452	1,66,913	1,73,412
Nowgong.....	5,316	5,306	1,66,178	1,73,899	1,71,494	1,79,205
Sibságar	10,247	18,272†	3,14,150	3,15,426	3,24,397	3,33,698
Lakhimpur	4,364	4,761	2,48,283	2,54,225	2,52,647	2,58,986
Hill districts	435	593	.....	.....	435	593
Total	36,428	45,546	11,83,203	11,82,594	12,19,631	12,28,140

* Inclusive of Rs. 1,607 } paid in advance on account of 1877-78.
† " " 11,105 }

259. *Madat and Chandu.*—The number of licenses for the sale of these articles, and the revenue realized as license-fees, for the past year were as follows:—

	Number of licenses.	Amount of License-fees.
		Rs.
Madat	29	2,624
Chandu	26	2,536
Total	55	5,160

The number of licenses for the sale of madat has decreased by five, as compared with the previous year, with a corresponding decrease in revenue of Rs. 330. In Cachar, while the number of licenses issued decreased by one, the revenue increased by Rs. 138. The Deputy-Commissioner attributes this satisfactory result to a brisk competition among the auction purchasers. The licenses for the sale of chandu, and the revenue therefrom, remained almost stationary during the past two years.

260. This report being the last on the system of the sale of licenses for the retail vend of opium at a fixed price, Colonel Keatinge thinks it desirable that the opium sales of each district of the Province for the past five years should be put on record, in order that there may be sufficient data at hand for comparing the results of the new system of selling licenses by auction with those of the old system. The following tables [(*a*) and (*b*)], showing respectively the quantity of opium sold and the total revenue derived from opium and its preparations for each district of the Province during the past five years, *viz.*, 1872-73 to 1876-77, are therefore appended:—

Statement (*a*) *showing the total sales of opium in each district for five years*, viz., 1872-73 *to* 1876-77.

District.	Quantity of opium sold in									
	1872-73.		1873-74.		1874-75.		1875-76.		1876-77.	
	Mds.	Srs.	Mds.	Srs.	Mds.	Srs.	Mds.	Srs.	Mds.	Srs.
Cachar	48	21	49	10	51	23	50	27	43	17
Sylhet	46	5	47	15	52	36	57	1	49	1
Goálpára	91	32	83	26	76	11	74	16	63	35
Kámrúp	289	21	290	13	274	38	277	25	252	8
Darrang	224	4	236	30	239	12	255	33	252	16
Nowgong	286	35	283	35	258	39	260	30	263	38
Sibságar	488	0	481	27	489	17	498	26	478	39
Lakhimpur	357	8	382	27	390	37	394	4	386	25
Khási Hills	0	36	1	9	2	1	2	35	3	19
Gáro „	.....		.....		.....		.....		*.....	
Nága „	.....		.....		0	37	3	1	*.....	
Total	1,833	2	1,856	32	1,837	11	1,874	38	1,793	38

* Information not available.

Statement (b) showing the total income from opium and its preparations in each district of the Province for the five years, viz., from 1872-73 *to* 1876-77.

District.	1872-73.			1873-74.			1874-75.			1875-76.			1876-77.		
	License-fees.	Net sale-proceeds of opium.	Total.	License-fees.	Net sale-proceeds of opium.	Total.	License-fees.	Net sale-proceeds of opium.	Total.	License-fees.	Net sale-proceeds of opium.	Total.	License-fees.	Net sale-proceeds of opium.	Total.
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Cachar.....	420	29,077	29,497	492	31,027	31,519	1,980	32,492	34,472	1,327	32,845	34,172	1,228	29,095	30,323
Sylhet	1,542	28,119	29,661	1,729	30,618	32,347	2,103	34,635	36,738	2,836	38,800	41,636	3,406	34,974	38,380
Goalpara.....	384	54,162	54,546	511	49,354	49,865	2,641	46,901	49,542	2,338	46,872	49,210	2,055	42,042	44,097
Kámrúp	656	1,73,131	1,73,787	662	1,82,905	1,83,567	8,342	1,73,219	1,81,561	7,483	1,74,905	1,82,388	6,446	1,66,481	1,72,927
Darrang	108	1,33,784	1,33,892	144	1,49,152	1,49,296	6,293	1,50,759	1,57,052	5,899	1,61,170	1,67 069	7,047	1,66,452	1,73,499
Nowgong.....	300	1,70,122	1,70,422	298	1,78,842	1,79,140	6,216	1,63,154	1,69,370	5,588	1,66,178	1,71,766	5,578	1,73,899	1,79,477
Sibsagar	527	2,92,318	2,92,845	665	3,03,455	3,04,120	10 197	3,08,920	3,19,117	10,989	3,14,150	3,25,139	19,003	3,15,426	3,34,429
Lakhimpur.....	489	2,12,967	2,13,456	563	2,41,086	2,41,649	3,990	2,46,282	2,50,272	4,900	2,48,283	2,53,183	5,239	2,54,225	2,59,464
Khasi Hills.....	48	....	48	242	.....	242	222	.....	222	239	....	239	237	....	237
Gáro „	....	....	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	....	....	...	111	....	111
Nága „	....	....	....	71	.....	71	337	.....	337	339	....	339	356	....	356
Total....	4,474*	10,93,680	10,98,154	5,377*	11,66,439	11,71,816	42,321	11,56,362	11,98,683	41,938	11,83,203	12,25,141	50,706	11,82,594	12,33,300

* In these years opium licenses were granted free of charge, the figures represent only license-fees for the retail vend of madat and chandu (preparations of opium).

Previous to the year 1874-75 licenses for the retail vend of opium were granted free of charge. In 1874-75, the system of levying fees on licenses for the sale of opium was for the first time introduced into the Province. The rates of fees in all districts except Sylhet were fixed at—

Rs. 4 for three months.
" 7 " six "
" 10 " nine "
" 12 " one year.

In Sylhet, the rate was fixed at Rs. 3 for a half year. In 1875-76 the rate of license-fees in Sylhet was raised to the rate then prevailing in the other districts in the Province. From the month of June, 1876, the license-fee for the retail vend of opium was raised throughout the Province from Rs. 12 to Rs. 18 a year, and for the remainder of that year, licenses for shorter periods were issued on the following scale, *viz*:—

Rs. 6 for three months.
" 11 " six "

SECTION 2.—SALT.

261. As in 1875-76, so in the year under report, the revenue under this head was derived entirely from the salt-wells in Cachar. The receipts amounted to Rs. 55, against Rs. 37 in the previous year.

SECTION 3.—EXCISE.

Changes in the system.

262. The following changes in the system under which the excise branch of revenue is administered in the Province of Assam were introduced during the year 1876-77 :—

(1). The extension of a modified system of farming the revenue derived from country spirits to the district of Goálpára and to a portion of the district of Lakhimpur.

(2). The abolition of the sudder distillery system in Sylhet, and the extension in lieu of it of the out-still system to the entire district.

(3). The introduction into Sylhet of the system of farming the revenue derived from country rum and imported spirits, under the Bengal rules for the settlement of excise shops under the auction system.

(4). The extension of a modified system of farming the revenue derived from ganja to the districts of Cachar, Goálpára, and Kámrúp.

263. The excise revenue of this Province shows a steady and progressive increase. The figures given below show, for the year 1875-76, in the gross revenue from all sources, except opium and its preparations, which are treated in a separate section, an increase of Rs. 9,309 (*a*) as compared with the preceding year, and an increase of Rs. 15,952 (*b*) over the receipts of 1873-74, the year in which the Chief Commissionership was formed. This increase is attributable to a considerable improvement under the heads of "country spirits" and

"ganja," and the Chief Commissioner anticipated a still further increase during the year under review, owing to the changes in the system above enumerated:—

1875-76.

	Rs.	14,14,421	total excise revenue.
Deduct	"	12,25,141	receipts from opium, madat, and chandu.
	"	1,89,280	

1874-75.

	Rs.	13,78,654	total collections.
Deduct	"	11,98,683	receipts from opium, madat, and chandu.
	"	1,79,971	

Rs. 1,89,280—1,79,971=9,309 (*a*)

1873-74.

	Rs.	13,45,144	total collections.
Deduct	"	11,71,816	receipts from opium, madat, and chandu.
	"	1,73,328	

Rs. 1,89,280—1,73,328=15,952 (*b*).

The following figures prove that Colonel Keatinge was correct in his estimate:—

1874-75.

	Rs.	13,80,613	total current demand on all exciseable articles (as per column 3, table II.)
Deduct	"	11,99,446	demand on account of opium, madat, and chandu.
	"	1,81,167 (*a*)	

1875-76.

	Rs.	14,12,216	total current demand on all exciseable articles (as per table II. column 3).
Deduct	"	12,23,510	demand on account of opium, madat, and chandu.
		1,88,706 (*b*)	

1876-77.

	Rs.	14,23,603	total demand (as per column 3, table II.)
Deduct	"	12,21,871	demand on account of opium, madat, and chandu.
		2,01,732 (*c*)	

The total demand in 1874-75 was Rs. 1,81,167 (*a*); in 1875-76 it rose to Rs. 1,88,706 (*b*); while in 1876-77 it reached Rs. 2,01,732 (*c*), showing an increase, compared with 1875-76 of Rs. 13,026, and a revenue largely exceeding the average receipts of previous years.

The increase was mainly under the heads of "country spirits," "imported wines," and "ganja," the three articles with respect to which the farming system was partially introduced into this Province during the year under report.

The Chief Commissioner observes with much satisfaction that these successful financial results have been achieved without any infraction of the principles which the Government of India desires to be maintained in the administration of this branch of the Imperial revenues. This increase of revenue has not been obtained by any extension of the facilities for obtaining liquor and drugs, but is mainly due to the imposition of higher rates of license-fees.

264. Of the demand of the year, Rs. 2,00,657 were collected during the year, leaving at its close a balance of Rs. 1,075* unrealized. Of this sum, Rs. 309 (Rs. 243 in Sibságar and Rs. 66 in Gáro Hills) have since been remitted as irrecoverable. Of the remainder, Rs. 152 have been realized since the close of the year, and the balance is in process of recovery. There was an arrear demand of Rs. 98 for 1875-76, which was collected in full during the year under notice; Rs. 421 were realized in advance, in the district of Sibságar, on account of licenses issued for the sale of country spirits and imported wines for the year 1877-78. Thus, the total amount of collections during the year was Rs. 2,01,176.

	Rs.
In Goálpára	766
„ Sibságar	243
„ Gáro Hills	66
Total ..	1,075

265. The charges of the department (exclusive of the cost of conveying opium) amounted to Rs. 12,405 in 1876-77, against Rs. 10,249 in the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 2,156. This increase occurred mainly in the district of Sylhet, where the figures under the head of "contingent charges" rose from Rs. 895 in 1875-76 to Rs. 3,064 in 1876-77, owing to the necessity for repairing the Párkúl divisional buildings and to the purchase of certain new furniture during the year.

Deducting the above charges from the total collections for the year, we get the following net result :—

Collections	2,01,176
Charges	12,405
Net revenue	1,88,771

The net revenue of 1875-76 was Rs. 1,79,031, as shown in the margin. Thus, in spite of a considerable increase in the charges incurred during the past year, the net revenue shows an improvement by Rs. 9,740.

	Rs.
Collections	1,89,280
Charges	10,249
Net revenue	1,79,031

266. The following is an analysis of the gross revenue of the year, as compared with 1875-76:—

Heads of Revenue.		1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Fixed duty on	Country spirits	27,479	20,962	—1,08,854	85,203
	Ganja	81,375	64,241		
II.—License-fees	Country spirits	43,963	51,665	77,214	1,13,211
	Rum	1,703	1,475		
	Imported wines	2,876	3,195		
	Tari	34	16		
	Pachwai	756	1,362		
	Ganja	27,882	55,501		
III.—Distillery-fees on country spirits		.....	.....	3,202	2,758
IV.—Miscellaneous		.....	.....	10	4
Total ..		.....	.....	1,89,280	2,01,176

Of the total revenue of the year, ganja contributed Rs. 1,19,742, or nearly 60 per cent.; country spirits contributed Rs. 75,385, or 37 per cent.; and the other spirituous liquors Rs. 6,045, or 3 per cent.

267. *Country Spirits.*—The manufacture and sale of country spirits in this Province during the year under review, were carried on partly under the fixed duty system, partly under the out-still or monthly tax system, and partly under a modified farming system.

Fixed duty system.

268. The fixed duty system was in force in Cachar throughout the year, and in a portion of Sylhet for the first six months of the year. From the 1st of October, 1876, however, this system was abolished in Sylhet, and the out-still or monthly tax system, which had already been introduced in previous years into the Jaintiá and Sunámganj divisions, was extended to the remaining portion of the district.

The subjoined table exhibits the quantity of country spirits consumed, and the revenue derived therefrom, under the fixed duty system during the year, as compared with the previous year:—

District.	Number of licenses.		Consumption.		Revenue.	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
			Gallons.	Gallons.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar	159	103	22,173	20,126	37,553	32,315
Sylhet	43	38	4,655	1,408	8,321	4,041
Total ..	202	141	26,828	21,534	45,874	36,356

In Cachar, the number of shops decreased by 56. It is satisfactory to observe that 46 out of the 103 licenses issued during the year were taken out for tea-gardens, particularly, as it is believed that the planters use all the means in their power to check the excessive

consumption of spirits among their coolies. This fact, combined with the fact that the distillers raised the price of spirits, caused a considerable diminution in the consumption of this article. This decreased consumption was attended with a corresponding falling off of Rs. 3,181 in the revenue under the head "still-head duty," while the revenue from "license-fees" fell from Rs. 12,345 in 1875-76 to Rs. 10,475 in 1876-77, or a decrease of Rs. 1,870, owing to a strong combination among the distillers to keep down the prices at the sale of licenses by auction.

In Sylhet, the figures given in the preceding table are for the first half of the year only, the sudder distillery system having been abolished, as noted above, from 1st October, 1876. It, however, appears that the consumption during six months of the past year did not amount to one-third of the consumption during 1875-76. A similar decrease in 1875-76, as compared with 1874-75, was noticed in the last General Administration Report. This steady falling off is, the Deputy-Commissioner apprehends, owing to the carrying on of illicit manufacture of country spirits in the outlying parts of the district. It is hoped that the new system will act as a check on such manufacture, and that it may eventually lead to a considerable increase in the excise revenue.

Monthly tax system.

269. The monthly tax or out-still system was in force throughout the year in the districts of Darrang, Nowgong, Sibságar, Nága Hills, Gáro Hills, in South Kámrúp, and in the Sunámganj and Jaintiá divisions in the district of Sylhet, and, for the latter half of the year, in the entire district of Sylhet.

The number of shops and the revenue from license-fees for the past two years are exhibited in the following table:—

District.	Number of shops in—		Revenue in—	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
			Rs.	Rs.
Sylhet	18	32	1,436	4,887
Kámrúp	13	20	4,776	4,425
Darrang	14	13	3,778	3,824
Nowgong	10	8	3,084	2,452
Sibságar	9	11	12,608	14,877
Naga Hills	2	2	204	756
Gáro "	1	3	1,200	1,765
Total ..	67	89	26,986	32,986

The out-still or monthly tax system introduced into Sylhet has been modified in one particular,—to the lessee of each out-still has been given the monopoly of the supply of a certain definite area. Special care was taken to prevent these areas becoming either too large, lest the monopoly might become oppressive, or too small, lest the price of spirits should be kept too low. 32 licenses, producing a revenue of Rs. 4,487, were sold under this system during the past year. Although the figures under this head, as given in the foregoing table, show a considerable improvement in the revenue, as compared with the preceding year,

yet, on a comparison of the figures for the past two years under both the fixed duty and the monthly tax systems, there appears a small falling off of Rs. 829 in the total receipts from country spirits during the year under review. This decrease may fairly be attributed to the fact of the new system having been only recently introduced.

In Sibságar, the number of licenses increased from 9 to 11, and there was a corresponding increase of Rs. 2,369 in the revenue from this source. It is believed that the revenue under this head is still capable of large expansion in this district. The spirit-drinking population, who are chiefly imported labourers, are said to be in the habit of manufacturing their own liquor, and, until shops are multiplied, they will, it is feared, continue to do so, and the public revenue will consequently suffer. The Deputy-Commissioner has been requested to state the number of shops that, in this view of the case, might, in his opinion, be opened in his district.

The falling off in Nowgong of Rs. 632 in the revenue derived from country spirits is attributed to less competition for licenses at auction. Probably, the free importation of rum by the tea-planters for issue to their garden coolies may have caused this diminution, inasmuch as the garden coolies are the principal consumers of spirits.

The increase of Rs. 552, observable in the Nága Hills district, was owing to the licenses having been sold in the past year at a higher rate than in the previous year.

In the Gáro Hills, the increase of Rs. 565 was owing to more licenses having been sold last year than in the preceding year. The system of taxing the consumption of country spirits was introduced for the first time into this district in 1875-76. It is hoped that, as the system is further developed, the revenue will expand commensurately.

Farming system.

270. The system of selling by auction the right of manufacture and sale of country spirits within certain defined areas was in force throughout the year in the entire district of Goálpára, and in the portion of the district of Kámrúp lying on the north bank of the Brahmaputra.

In Goálpára, 10 mehals were sold during the year, with results highly satisfactory. The number of shops decreased from 29 to 16, while the revenue increased from Rs. 1,764 in 1875-76 to Rs. 4,518 in 1876-77.

In Kámrúp, 8 farms were sold during the year, against 4 in 1875-76, with an increase of Rs. 274 in the revenue realized therefrom, as shown in the margin. But this increase of Rs. 274 was more than counterbalanced by a falling off of Rs. 351 under the monthly tax system. Thus, the total receipts in Kámrúp from country spirits, under both the systems taken together, decreased by Rs. 77. Improved results are, however, expected for the current year, in consequence of the extension of the farming system to the entire district from the 1st April, 1877.

1875-76	Rs.	20
1876-77	"	294

The system of taxing country spirits was for the first time extended, during the past year, to the district of Lakhimpur. The system introduced was a modification of the farming system. The station of Dibrugarh was constituted a farm, which was sold to the highest bidder at public auction. Generally, the conditions under which licenses under the monthly tax-system are granted were made applicable to this case. Five shops were opened during the year, which brought in a revenue of Rs. 1,231 for the year 1876-77.

The total revenue derived during the year in the Province under the farming system was Rs. 6,043.

Rs. 74,984 collected.

271. The total demand of the year under the head "country spirits" was Rs. 75,839, or Rs. 1,807* in excess of 1875-76. This increase was mainly due to the extension of the farming system to the districts of Goálpára and Lakhimpur, as already stated. There is still ample room for improvement under this head of the excise revenue. In some districts, the consumption of country spirits has but of late been brought under control. The further development of the system will, it is hoped, be attended with more gratifying results from a financial point of view.

272. During the past year, some cases were brought to the notice of the Chief Commissioner in which country spirit shops had to be closed and removed on the complaint of the owners of neighbouring tea-gardens, who objected to the establishment of these shops in the vicinity of their estates. The attention of the District Officers concerned has since been drawn to the course which should be pursued in dealing with complaints of this nature, having full regard to the convenience and interests of the planters, as well as to the revenues of the State.

273. *Rum.*—Rum consumed in this Province is, as stated in the previous years' reports, obtained from Calcutta, where the duty is realized, and credited to the Bengal Government. 31 Licenses (7 wholesale and 24 retail) to sell rum were issued during the year, against 55 (8 wholesale and 47 retail) issued during the preceding year. The revenue from fees on these licenses amounted to Rs. 1,475, against Rs. 1,703 in the preceding year, or a decrease of Rs. 228. The decrease is mainly owing to there having been no revenue derived from this source during the past year in Sibságar, where during the preceding year a revenue of Rs. 255 was obtained. The cause of this was the withdrawal by the Chief Commissioner of the restriction formerly imposed on planters (who are the only dealers in this article in Sibságar) by which they were compelled to take out licenses for the purpose of distributing rum to their coolies.

The question of the liability of planters to pay license-fees for the issue of rum to the coolies on their gardens was specially referred by the Chief Commissioner for the orders of the Government of India, and it was ruled that such a transaction being of the nature of a barter, no license-fees could be demanded.

In Sylhet, the rules issued by the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, for the settlement of excise shops under the auction system, were applied in the case of licenses for the retail vend of country rum. The effect of this measure has been a satisfactory increase of Rs. 221 in the receipts from this article. This is the more satisfactory, as the return shows a decrease in consumption. The extension of the same measure to the district of Cachar is under contemplation, and, as a step towards effecting this, the monthly license-fee for the sale of rum has been raised to Rs. 10 for shops within a radius of two miles from the cutcherry at Silchar, and to Rs. 5 for mofussil shops. The results of this change have been, however, anything but satisfactory, there being a decrease in revenue and an increase in consumption under this head, in consequence of managers of tea-gardens distributing rum to their coolies, and not being required to take out licenses for doing so.

274. *Imported Spirits.*—The Bengal rules for the settlement of excise shops under the auction system were applied in the case of licenses for the sale of imported spirits in the district of Sylhet.

The total number of licenses granted during the year, both for wholesale and retail vend of imported spirits, was 77, against 66 during the preceding year. This increase in the number of licenses was attended with a corresponding increase of Rs. 319 in the revenue realized from this source, *viz.*, from Rs. 2,876 in 1875-76 to Rs. 3,195 in 1876-77.

On the recommendation of the Deputy-Commissioner of Darrang, it has been ordered that the rate of fees chargeable on licenses for the general retail vend of these spirits be raised to Rs. 100 per annum from the commencement of the incoming financial year. The rate, *viz.*, Rs. 48 per year, which at present obtains, is deemed inadequate, considering the profits derived by the shopkeepers.

275. *Tari and Pachwai.*—The consumption of tari during the year was restricted to the district of Kámrúp. Revenue was derived from pachwai in the two districts of the Surmá Valley only. The returns show an increase of Rs. 585 in the revenue derived from tari and pachwai, as compared with the receipts of the preceding year.

276. *Ganja.*—Except in Sylhet, where the system of selling them to the highest bidders at auction has been in force since 1st October, 1875, licenses for the retail vend of ganja in this Province used to be issued at a uniform monthly tax of Rs. 4, in accordance with the Board's Rules, Section XVII., Chapter V. It, however, came to the notice of the Chief Commissioner that the tax thus levied on account of shops was very incommensurate with the amount of the drug consumed, or with the profits derived by the licensee. As a prompt remedy for this needless loss of revenue, Colonel Keatinge directed the institution of the system of putting up to auction the monopoly of the vend of ganja within certain specified boundaries, on conditions almost identical with those of the licenses heretofore issued. This system was introduced during the past

year into the three districts of Goálpára, Cachar, and Kámrúp, with results eminently favourable from a financial point of view.

Since the close of the year, the system of farming the revenue from ganja has been introduced into the other districts of the Province, Sibságar excepted. The result of this measure, as regards the whole Province, has been, as already reported to the Government of India in letter No. 2,053, dated 3rd July, 1877, an increase of Rs. 20,494, or 37 per cent. over the revenue of the past year, while the number of shops has been reduced from 273 to 247.

277. The following table exhibits the consumption of, and revenue derived from, ganja in the several districts of this Province for the past year, as compared with 1875-76:—

District.	Consumption.		Revenue.	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
	Mds. Sr. C.	Mds. Sr. C.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar	197 7 15	175 10 7	23,256	30,532
Sylhet	419 13 7	308 32 13	61,488	61,465
Goálpára	91 18 8	55 35 0	11,529	12,548
Kámrúp	60 16 0	46 7 0	7,479	9,289
Darrang	16 29 12	19 6 0	2,154	2,445
Nowgong	3 0 0	2 38 0	96	96
Sibságar	.....	1 38 0	.....	308
Lakhimpur	20 36 9	16 19 6	2,553	2,208
Khási Hills	5 20 0	7 10 0	702	851
Total	814 22 3	633 36 10	1,09,257(a)	1,19,742(b)

(a) Includes an arrear collection of Rs. 36.
(b) Ditto ditto ditto „ 94.

In Cachar, the revenue from license-fees for 1875-76 amounted to Rs. 3,536. On the sale of the monopoly of the vend of ganja in the whole district for 1876-77 the price realized was Rs. 12,600. The farming of the entire district as one mehal has resulted in the checking of the consumption of the drug, and in the increase of the revenue derived from it.

In Sylhet, the consumption decreased by about one-fourth, owing to the enhancement of the price of the drug by the retail vendors. If the enhanced price of this drug does not foster illicit cultivation, and the consumption is permanently checked, desirable results will have been obtained.

In Goálpára, the number of licenses fell from 67 in 1875-76 to 21 in 1876-77, and the consumption decreased from 91 maunds to 55 maunds; while, on the other hand, the license-fees actually collected rose from Rs. 2,382 in 1875-76 to Rs. 6,930 in 1876-77; that is to say, the revenue was nearly trebled, while the consumption decreased by nearly one-half. These highly satisfactory results are entirely attributable to the new system, and to the active competition for the licenses at auction.

The increase of Rs. 1,810 in the revenue under this head in Kámrúp is satisfactory, as the number of licenses and the consumption have been reduced. The fees on licenses rose from Rs. 1,164 in 1875-76 to Rs. 4,377 in the past year, while the consumption was reduced by 25 per cent. The consequent falling off in the receipts on account of duty was more than made up by the large increase in the receipts from license-fees, due to the new system of farming the revenue.

The increase of Rs. 291 in Darrang calls for no special remarks.

In Nowgong, the consumption of ganja is very trifling, being 3 maunds in 1876-77, against 2 maunds 38 seers in 1875-76.

Hitherto, there were no shops for the sale of ganja in Sibságar. This, considering the very large number of foreigners in the district, appeared to the Chief Commissioner unnatural, and led him to think that the drug was sold surreptitiously, to the detriment of the Government revenue. The attention of the Deputy-Commissioner was drawn to the matter. Three shops were accordingly sold last year, and realized Rs. 113. 1 maund 38 seers of ganja were imported, upon which duty, amounting to Rs. 195, was realized. There can now be no doubt but that the use of ganja is prevalent in Sibságar, and that in time a considerable revenue may be expected in that district from this drug.

In Lakhimpur, there was a falling off both in the revenue derived from, and in the consumption of, the drug. From this, it would appear that the people of this district are giving up the use of ganja. The attention of the Deputy-Commissioner was drawn to the matter, and he was requested to ascertain and report if there was any reason to suspect that wild ganja was consumed in place of the taxed drug. From the Deputy-Commissioner's report, since received, it appears that wild ganja is sometimes used in the district for medicinal purposes, and especially in the treatment of horses, but that the Government ganja is preferred, when it can be procured.

The increase both in the revenue derived from, and in the consumption of, ganja in the Khási Hills district is attributable to the increased foreign population of Shillong.

278. *Prosecutions under the excise laws.*—There were during the year prosecutions under the excise laws in each of the plains districts of the Province (except Goálpára), but there was no case of any great importance. Two cases of illicit cultivation of the poppy were discovered in Darrang, where certain persons were found in possession of small patches of land with poppy plants growing thereon. Considering the nature of the offence, the punishment inflicted, *viz.*, a fine of Rs. 30 in each case, was, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, quite inadequate. Colonel Keatinge apprehends that these small patches are probably seed-beds for raising seed for illicit cultivation of the poppy beyond our boundary, or in some inaccessible spot. The attention of the Deputy-Commissioner has been drawn to the matter.

In all, 124 persons were arrested, 93 by the police and 31 by excise officers, of whom 120, or 97 per cent., were convicted. The fines

imposed amounted to Rs. 2,493, of which Rs. 2,109, or nearly 80 per cent., were realized; and, out of this, a sum of Rs. 1,535 was distributed by way of reward to informers and apprehenders, in addition to an amount of Rs. 32, sanctioned as special rewards. The results of these prosecutions may be considered satisfactory, and point to commendable vigilance on the part of the excise and police officers.

279. The following statement shows the total excise revenue of the Province during the last three years, together with the total charges incurred in connection with that revenue. This statement shows clearly that the excise revenue of the Province is increasing, even if the proceeds from the sale of opium be excluded.

The fluctuations under the different heads have been fully explained in the foregoing paragraphs.

Head of Revenue.	Revenue in		
	1874-75.	1875-76.	1876-77.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Country spirits	70,178	74,644	75,385
Rum	1,816	1,703	1,475
Imported wines	2,512	2,876	3,195
Tari	84	94	13
Pachwai	733	756	1,362
Ganja	1,04,581	1,09,237	1,19,742
Licenses to retail opium or its preparations	42,321	41,958	50,706
Miscellaneous	37	10	4
Total	2,22,202	2,31,218	2,51,882
Deduct charges: Conveyance of opium	7,792	13,764	12,319
Deduct charges: Establishment and contingent charges.	11,531	10,249	12,405
Total	19,323	24,013	24,724
Net revenue	2,02,969	2,07,205	2,27,158
Add sale of opium	11,56,362	11,83,203	11,82,591
Total net revenue	13,59,331	13,90,108	14,09,742

SECTION 4.—STAMPS.

280. The gross receipts during the year under the General and Court-fee Stamp Acts amounted to Rs. 4,87,332, against Rs. 5,06,115 during the preceding year and Rs. 4,74,622 during 1874-75; the result being a decrease of Rs. 18,783, as compared with 1875-76, and an increase of Rs. 12,710 over the receipts for 1874-75.

The causes of this decrease, as compared with 1875-76, briefly stated, were as follows:—

(1) Decrease in litigation.

(2) Decrease in the value of suits, especially in Sylhet.

(3) Decrease in the number of deeds of sale executed.

(4) Greater circulation of currency notes and the introduction of supply bills.

(5) Decrease in monetary transactions, caused by the temporary collapse of the timber trade in Cachar.

Of the total gross income of the year, Cachar and Sylhet, the two districts of the Surmá Valley, yielded Rs. 2,91,593, or a little less than 60 per cent. Of the remainder, a sum of Rs. 1,92,447, or about 39 per cent., was contributed by the six districts of the Brahmaputra Valley, and the balance of Rs. 3,292 was realized in the Khási and Jaintiá Hills and Nága Hills districts. The stamp laws are not in force in the Gáro Hills district.

281. The incidence of stamp taxation per head of the population was 2 annas 5 pie in the Surmá Valley, 1 anna 7 pie, in the Brahmaputra Valley, and 3 pie in the two hill districts. Of the gross stamp revenue of the year, Rs. 1,38,299, or 28·4 per cent., were derived from general stamps, and Rs. 3,49,033 or 71·6 per cent. from court-fee stamps.

282. *General Stamps.*—The receipts under the General Stamp Act were distributed as follows :—

Denomination of stamps.	Revenue in—		Increase.	Decrease.
	1875-76.	1876-77.		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Non-judicial or document stamps	1,36,799	1,29,462	.....	7,337
Adhesive receipt or revenue stamps ..	3,951	4,390	439	.....
Hoondees or bills of exchange	1,467	1,296	.....	171
Miscellaneous receipts.				
(*a.*) Duty realized under Section 20 of Act XVIII. of 1869.	140	122	.....	18
(*b.*) Duty realized under Section 24 of Act XVIII. of 1869.	2 593	3,029	436	.....
Total	1,44,950	1,38,299	.....	6,651

Non-judicial or document stamps.—The sale-proceeds of non-judicial stamps amounted during the year to Rs. 1,29,462, against Rs. 1,36,799 during the preceding year, showing a decrease of Rs. 7,337, or 5·4 per cent.

The returns from all the Assam Valley districts (except Kámrúp) and from the Nága Hills district show an improvement under this head of stamp revenue. But this increase, *viz.*, Rs. 2,358, was

more than counterbalanced by the total falling off of Rs. 9,695 in the remaining districts of the Province. Nearly three-fourths of the total falling off occurred in Sylhet, owing to a decrease in the number of the deeds of sale executed during the past year. In Cachar, there was a falling off of Rs. 1,744, owing to a decline in monetary transactions caused by a temporary collapse of the timber trade, consequent on the first operations for conserving the Government forests which had hitherto been worked without restraint, and on some enhancement of the rates of toll charged on timber.

The decrease in the Khási Hills is attributed to the fact that stamps over Rs. 30, to the value of Rs. 844-8, were issued in 1875-76, against a value of Rs. 182-8 in 1876-77. The stamps were taken by certain tea-planters, and by parties executing bonds for building advances granted by Government.

The decrease in Kámrúp was small, and calls for no remark.

Adhesive receipt and revenue stamps.—The sale-proceeds of adhesive receipt and revenue stamps amounted during the year to Rs. 4,390, against Rs. 3,951 during the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 439, of which Rs. 321 were contributed by the district of Sylhet. In no one of the remaining districts did the fluctuation amount to Rs. 100. In Sibságar, there was a slight increase of Rs. 33. The Deputy-Commissioner is of opinion that there is still room for improvement. He apprehends that the stamp law in regard to this class of stamps is evaded. During the year under review measures were taken to enforce the provisions of the law. The attention of all District Officers was drawn to a circular issued in May, 1876, by the High Court at Calcutta regarding evasions of the stamp law by native money lenders in certain classes of loan transactions. In October, 1876, the practice which was then said to exist of using "blank transfer deeds" in order to evade payment of the stamp duties chargeable on "share-transfer deeds" was brought to the notice of the Chief Commissioner, and certain instructions were thereupon issued for the guidance of the revenue officers concerned, with a view to prevent the recurrence of the practice in question.

Hoondee or bill of exchange stamps.—The sale of hoondee stamps brought in a revenue of Rs. 1,296, showing a falling off of Rs. 171, as compared with the receipts of the preceding year. The decrease was mainly in the Sylhet district, where the revenue under this head fell from Rs. 536 in 1875-76 to Rs. 245 in 1876-77. The causes assigned by the Deputy-Commissioner are the free circulation of currency notes, and the introduction of supply-bills.

Miscellaneous receipts.—The revenue under the head of "Miscellaneous receipts" shows an increase of Rs. 418 over the revenue under the same head for 1875-76. Of the total amount (Rs. 3,151) realized during the year under review, a sum of Rs. 3,029 was levied by the revenue courts, under Section 24, Act XVIII. of 1869, as duty on unstamped or insufficiently-stamped instruments produced before them, and the remainder (Rs. 122) represents the duty levied by civil courts under Section 20 of the said Act under similar circumstances. The

bulk of the revenue was contributed by the Sibságar district, where the revenue under this head amounted to Rs. 1,116, showing an increase of Rs. 648, as compared with the preceding year. The increase is attributable to the fact of more title-deeds for waste lands having been stamped during the year than in 1875-76. In Lakhimpur, there was an increase of Rs. 544, attributable to the same cause. On the other hand, there was a decrease of Rs. 736 in the district of Darrang, owing to the fact of fewer deeds of waste lands having been impressed during the year than in the preceding year.

In Cachar, there was a decrease of Rs. 210, owing to a falling off in the number of fee-simple title-deeds and to the greater care taken by the people to have their documents properly stamped. The fluctuations in the other districts are unimportant.

283. *Court-fee stamps.*—The sale-proceeds of court-fee stamps amounted to Rs. 3,49,033, against Rs. 3,61,165 in the previous year. The above figures show a decrease of Rs. 12,132, or 3·4 per cent. The decrease was distributed over all the districts, except Cachar, Goálpára, and Sibságar, which together show an increase of Rs. 13,780. The decrease which occurred in Sylhet is specially remarkable. In this district, the revenue fell from Rs. 1,81,487 in 1875-76 to Rs. 1,63,840 in the past year, or to the extent of Rs. 17,647. The Deputy-Commissioner observes as follows :—" Last year an increase in these (judicial) stamps was shown, but this was really delusive. There was then, and is still, a steady decrease in the number of civil suits; but there was in 1876 a single heavy suit, valued at Rs. 1,30,000, which raised the figures. There has been a great falling off in the number of cases from Jaintiá, where the settlement operations are in progress, many disputes being set at rest under the settlement laws by the executive officers, and people having less time than usual to litigate, being busy in pointing out their boundaries." The figures for Kámrúp, Darrang, Nowgong, and Lakhimpur show a total falling off of Rs. 7,987, caused by a decrease both in the number and value of civil suits. On the other hand, Cachar, Goálpára, and Sibságar show improved results, caused mainly by an increase in the number and value of civil suits instituted during the year. In Goálpára, an increase of Rs. 3,778 was owing to the institution of three heavy civil suits against Government by the Bijni Rajah and the zemindars of Gauripur and Mechpara, respectively.

In some of the districts, the improved results were in some degree owing to the strict enforcement of the rule that all process-fees should be realized in stamps. In May, 1876, the Chief Commissioner issued a circular desiring all Deputy-Commissioners of the plains districts to take measures to ensure that in future the rule in question be strictly acted upon. The practice of realizing fees for revenue processes in cash, which had previously obtained in some districts, as an exception to the above rule, has been put a stop to.

284. *Charges.*—In the year under report the charges amounted to Rs. 10,319, against Rs. 9,979 during the preceding year, as shown overleaf:—

	1875-76.	1876-77
	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Refunds	1,204	1,399
II.—Discount	8,620	8,846
III.—Miscellaneous	255	74
Increase	...	340

The above increase is mainly attributable to the progressive rise in the amount of discount allowed on the sale of judicial stamps during the last two years. In July, 1875, the old system of selling court-fee stamps through licensed vendors was revived. In 1874-75, and in the first quarter of 1875-76, the system of selling judicial stamps through official vendors obtained.

285. *Postage, service, and telegraph stamps.*—The following statement exhibits the realizations from the sale of postage, service, and telegraph stamps during the year under review, as compared with the preceding two years:—

Year.	Receipts.			
	Postage.	Service.	Telegraph.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1874-75	50,729	14,646	19,860	85,235
1875-76	58,337	15,846	18,770	92,953
1876-77	62,590	16,599	26,468	1,05,657

From the above, it will be seen that there has been a steady progressive increase in the revenue realized from postage and service stamps. Under the head "Telegraph stamps" there was a temporary falling off of Rs. 1,090 in 1875-76, as compared with the previous year. But during the year under report the sales of telegraph stamps exceeded those of 1875-76 by Rs. 7,698, and those of 1874-75 by Rs. 6,608. It is satisfactory to observe that the returns from all the districts of the Province show a considerable increase under this head. These results are attributable mainly to the development of private correspondence, to the increased exertions of the Postal Department in extending the postal service, and to the extension of the line of telegraph to Upper Assam.

286. *Offences against the stamp laws.*—There were during the year under review 16 prosecutions in all for breaches of the stamp laws, against 3 such prosecutions in the preceding year, as will appear from the statement below:—

	1875-76.	1876-77.
Sylhet	3	6
Nowgong	...	8
Sibságar	...	2
Total	3	16

In the 6 cases reported from Sylhet, 9 persons were arrested of whom 8 were convicted. The offence charged in all these cases was the production before the courts of unstamped or insufficiently-stamped documents, with the intention of evading payment of the stamp duty required by law. In most of the cases a small fine was inflicted, the courts taking a lenient view of the matter. The Chief Commissioner has impressed upon District Officers the necessity there exists for taking strict cognizance of offences against the stamp laws.

In the 8 cases which occurred in the district of Nowgong, 8 persons were convicted of having executed deeds on unstamped paper, with the intention of evading the payment of the proper stamp duty. As in Sylhet, light fines were inflicted.

In Sibságar, there were 2 cases during the year. In one case, the accused was charged with engrossing a bond on plain paper, and in the other case, the charge was for executing an agreement on an insufficiently-stamped paper. In both the cases the accused persons were convicted and fined Rs. 100 and Rs. 20, respectively. The increase in the number of prosecutions may be attributed to increased vigilance on the part of the officers concerned in detecting and bringing to justice offenders against the provisions of the stamp laws.

287. *Miscellaneous.*—Generally, the Deputy-Commissioners report that no stamp papers were used for any purposes other than those for which they are intended, and that the rules about punching and re-punching stamps were duly observed. During the year under review, the practice, which was formerly permitted, of issuing adhesive court-fee stamps in exchange for bi-colour judicial stamped papers, was ordered to be discontinued.

The system of selling court-fee stamps through licensed vendors obtained throughout the year in the several plains districts of the Province, discount being allowed at the rate of Re. 1-8 per cent. The system has been found to work well. The Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet, however, observes as follows:— "There has been felt a great want for stamp vendors in the interior of the district, especially at some of the munsiffis, and I think the discount allowed to vendors is insufficient to induce men to come in several days' journey to purchase a stock of stamps and carry them back for sale. The system of advancing stamps to respectable vendors on security will be tried at the munsiffis."

On the representation of the Deputy-Commissioner, the Chief Commissioner sanctioned an advance of stamps to the value of Rs. 2,000 to the licensed vendor at the Nabiganj munsiffi, upon his furnishing good and sufficient security.

288. In former years, some loss of revenue derivable from judicial stamps was, it is feared, occasioned by the fraudulent use or abstraction of adhesive court-fee stamps. With a view to prevent the recurrence of such practices, the Chief Commissioner, in September, 1876, issued certain instructions for the guidance of all district and sub-divisional officers. Under these instructions, no ministerial officer who is not

specially authorized to do so can, under the penalty of dismissal, sell stamps to, or buy stamps for, or receive money on account of the purchase of stamps from, any person whatever. It is now the duty of the record-keeper, on receiving records from a mohurrir, to ascertain whether all papers in the records which require stamps are properly stamped, and whether any of the stamps show signs of having been tampered with, and immediately to report any deficiency to his superior officer. The mohurrir in charge is now responsible for the value of all stamps abstracted from any records in his charge. Although it is yet premature to estimate the effect of these measures, the Chief Commissioner is glad to observe that during the past year no cases of fraudulent use or abstraction of court-fee stamps were brought to his notice. Two cases of a suspicious nature occurred in the district of Goálpára. On inquiry, negligence and carelessness were brought home to the mohurrirs in whose charge the papers were kept, but fraudulent intention was not proved against them. The Deputy-Commissioner, however, considered that the further employment of these officers under Government would be inexpedient; they were, accordingly, dismissed, the value of the deficit stamps having been recovered from them.

SECTION 5.—ELEPHANTS.

289. The Chief Commissioner, with a view to ensure that every year a certain number of elephant-hunting grounds in Assam Proper should be offered on lease, so as to provide opportunities for continuous employment to the professional hunters who maintain large numbers of very valuable hunting elephants, divided the whole Assam Valley into blocks to be worked in succession for two years at a time, and then to rest for two or more years. Under this arrangement, the mehals in the district of Goálpára and Kámrúp and those on the north bank of the Brahmaputra, in Lakhimpur, were ordered to be leased during the year under report. The mehals in Goálpára were put up to auction, and one man offered Rs. 50 for each mehal; but as he was a man of no substance, the Deputy-Commissioner declined his offer. In Kámrúp, no one came forward to bid for the mehals when put up to auction. The failure of bids for the mehals in Goálpára and Kámrúp was attributed to the prohibition against catching elephants by noosing, and against sub-leasing the mehals; accordingly, in the Assam Valley, only seven mehals, as shown below, on the north bank of the Brahmaputra, in the Lakhimpur district, were leased during the year, yielding a total revenue of Rs. 14,350 :—

	No. and name of mehals.	Revenue. Rs.
9.	Sesi Dhol	1 310
10.	Dhol Kora	2,750
10½.	Brahmaputra Charkaria Ranga	1,550
11.	Kora Kumotia	2,250
12.	Kumotiar Hobanhari	2,050
13.	Hobanhari Ranga	820
14.	Range Moramarnai	3,620
		14,350

The only other mehals leased during the year were mehals Nos. 1 and 3, in the Gáro Hills. These mehals fetched a total sum of Rs. 5,220, *viz.*, No. 1 Rs. 3,000, and No. 3 Rs. 2,220.

The mehals in the districts of Cachar and Sylhet were reserved during the year, at the request of the Commissariat Department, for Government kheddah operations. Those in the district of the Khási Hills and Nága Hills were not leased during the year.

The revenue of the mehals leased was not due till the 30th April, 1877, and has therefore not been included in the revenue for the year. A sum of Rs. 8,605 was, however, paid in advance, and this has been credited to the year's income.

In all, 187 elephants were captured, of which 53 were taken over by Government, 7 were released as being too old, or as being heavy with calf, 1 escaped, and 14 died, leaving 112 at the disposal of the lessees. Of the 14 elephants which died, 7 were killed in the process of capture by noosing in the Gáro Hills mehals, and so, under the rule in force in this respect, full royalty was levied on them. In all, Rs. 11,300 were levied on account of royalty on elephants captured between 1st October, 1876, and 28th February, 1877. The royalty leviable on captures from the 1st of March, 1877, was not due within the year.

290. The total demand on account of revenue and royalty, including arrears, amounted to Rs. 31,047, of which Rs. 28,047 were collected and Rs. 200 remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 2,800 in the district of Lakhimpur, which is in course of realization.

291. Diversity of practice was found to prevail in the several districts in regard to the levy of royalty on elephant calves, and on elephants that die or escape after capture but before the royalty has been levied. To ensure uniformity, the Chief Commissioner directed that royalty at full rates should be levied on all elephant calves of whatever age, and on all elephants captured, irrespective of subsequent occurrences, excepting only such animals as are taken over on behalf of Government.

292. It was found necessary to add a clause to the conditions of license permitting the lessee to claim an allowance for maintenance of captured elephants which might be detained more than 15 days at his expense before being taken over by the Government officer.

293. Capture by noosing was allowed this year in the Gáro Hills. Previously, it had been altogether forbidden, capture by driving into stockades being alone permitted. The noosing system is much preferred by the hunters.

SECTION 6.—LAC.

294. Eight mehals for the collection of indigenous lac were leased during the year, as shown in the following statement:—

District.	Number of mehals.	Revenue.
		Rs.
Kámrúp	2	10
Darrang	1	200
Nowgong	1	650
Sibságar	1	40
Lakhimpur	3	60
Total	8	960

The mehal in the district of Darrang is held on a lease for a term of three years since 1875-76, on an annual rental of Rs. 200. The other mehals were leased for the current year only. In Nowgong only was any considerable sum offered for the monopoly; but the system is altogether new, this being the first year of the lease of the mehals, except in the case of Darrang, and the market value of the respective mehals is at present consequently to a great extent unknown. The total demand, amounting to Rs. 960, was collected within the year.

SECTION 7.—RUBBER.

295. In the district of the Gáro Hills only was any revenue derived from rubber during the year. The Deputy-Commissioner in this district is allowed to purchase the rubber from private collectors, as a Government monopoly; this rubber he again sells to the best advantage. The sum realized on this account was only Rs. 412, against Rs. 2,363 in the preceding year, an unusually small supply having been brought in for disposal.

Elsewhere throughout the Province, the collection of rubber is totally unrestricted. The Chief Commissioner made proposals for imposing certain restrictions on the collection and disposal of caoutchouc, in order that the Province might derive some revenue from this especially valuable product of its waste tracts; but the Government of India declined to sanction the measure, and desired that the future supply of this article of commerce should be dependent on a system of conservation and re-production of the tree in certain reserved areas by the Forest Department. The question is now under discussion with the chief forest officer as to the feasibility of enlarging the operations of the department in this respect which have been already undertaken.

A very large tract in the Darrang district, 80 square miles in extent, known as the Charduar Reserve, had already been set apart as a rubber plantation in the preceding year. 430 acres of this reserve are

now planted with caoutchouc-trees, which exhibit a promising growth, and 139 acres more are ready for planting.

The extension of the plantation would seem to be merely a matter of expenditure.

B.—REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

SECTION 1.—PROVINCIAL REVENUE.

296. The receipts and charges of the year under Provincial Services are exhibited in the following statement:—

Head of Service.	Receipts.	Charges.	Net results.	
			Receipts.	Charges.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial allotment for Provincial Services.	16,69,788	.....	16,69,788	.....
Refunds	.....	1,341	.....	1,341
Jails	33,299	1,15,742	.....	.....
Registration	22,221	18,657	.....	.....
Police	6,629	5,91,599	.....	.....
Education	22,927	1,68,104	.....	.....
Medical	1,889	30,322	.....	.....
Printing	2,904	18,822	.....	.....
Minor establishment	.....	19,230	.....	.....
Office rent, rates, and taxes	.....	7,044	.....	.....
Miscellaneous	2,122	28,036	.....	.....
Contributions	.....	30,928	.....	.....
Public Works	3,651	6,49,562	.....	.....
Total	17,65,430	16,79,387	86,043	.....

It was stated in last year's report that the expenditure under Provincial Services in 1874-75 and 1875-76 exceeded the allotment under that head, both years closing with a deficit, which was covered by special assignments made by the Government of India. At the close of 1876-77, instead of a deficit, there was a surplus of Rs. 86,043. The principal differences between the figures for 1875-76 and those for 1876-77 have already been explained, and this statement calls for no further remarks.

SECTION 2.—LOCAL FUNDS.

297. The following statement shows the receipts and expenditure during the year under review of five of the Local Funds, *viz.*:—

(1) Assam Local Fund.
(2) District Improvement Fund.
(3) District Post Fund.
(4) Cantonment Fund.
(5) Williamson Education Fund.

The comparison between the total receipts and total expenditure of these funds shows a small surplus. There was a considerable deficit in the preceding year.

The figures of the several funds for 1876-77 will be briefly compared with those for 1875-76.

298. *Assam Local Fund.*—The receipts of this fund during 1876-77 were Rs. 62,054, as compared with Rs. 54,309 in 1875-76. The corresponding expenditure was Rs. 53,770 and Rs. 36,824 respectively, showing an increase of Rs. 7,745 in receipts, and Rs. 16,946 in expenditure, as detailed below:—

Receipts.

	Increase. Rs.		Decrease. Rs.
Taxes, rates, and cesses	180	Tolls	28
Police	512	Public Works	215
Rents	6		
Cattle-trespass fines	1,805		
Miscellaneous fees and fines	174		
Sundry receipts	5,311		
Total	7,988		
	— 243		243
Net increase	7,745		

Expenditure.

	Increase.		Decrease.
Collection of cattle-trespass fines	694	Refund	1,863
Miscellaneous establishment	19,185	Police	2,100
Government contribution	5,000	General management	146
		Collection of tolls, rates, rents, &c.,	96
		Miscellaneous	673
		Public Works	3,055
Total	24,879	Total	7,933
Deduct decrease	7,933		
Net increase	16,946		

Under "Receipts," the most marked increases are in "Cattle-trespass fines" and "Sundry receipts." The increase in the former is due to the establishment of some new pounds during the year under review, and in the latter to the inclusion of the receipts from the Government tonga and bullock train services between Gauháti and Shillong in the account of the Assam Local Fund for 1876-77.

Under "Expenditure," the largest increase is under "Miscellaneous establishment." Of the amount of Rs. 19,185 shown under this head, Rs. 18,148 represent the charges on account of the Government tonga and bullock train services. The sum of Rs. 5,000 exhibited under "Government contribution" is the amount contributed to the Nága Hills District Improvement Fund. The increase in collection of taxes is due to increased income.

The decreases are almost all under fluctuating heads, and need no explanation.

299. *District Improvement Fund.*—The receipts of this fund during the year under report amounted to Rs. 2,70,518, against Rs. 1,85,168 in the previous year. The corresponding expenditure was Rs. 2,78,039 and Rs. 3,32,393, respectively, exhibiting an increase of Rs. 85,350 under receipts, and a decrease of Rs. 54,354 under expenditure, as shown below:—

Receipts.

	Increase.		Decrease.
	Rs.		Rs.
Taxes, rates, and cesses	1,32,119	Tolls	53
Miscellaneous fees and fines	10	Rents	2
Government contribution	5,000	Sundry receipts	52,434
Public Works	60		
Voluntary contribution	650		
Total	1,37,839	Total	52,489
Deduct decrease	52,489		
Net increase	85,350		

Expenditure.

Education	5,643	Refund	679
Collection of taxes and cesses	975	General management	2,028
Miscellaneous establishment	685	Collection of tolls, rates, rents, &c	321
Miscellaneous	3,622	Public Works	62,251
Total	10,925	Total	65,279

Under "Receipts," the most marked increase is in "Taxes, rates, and cesses," and the most marked decrease is in "Sundry receipts." The increase in the former is attributable to the inclusion of Rs. 1,21,200 on account of 1-17th of land revenue of Kámrúp and Lakhimpur for 1875-76 and 1876-77 at Rs. 60,600 for each year. The amount not having been deducted from the land revenue of those districts in 1875-76 and credited to the District Improvement Fund, the necessary correction was made in 1876-77. The decrease under "Sundry receipts" is owing to the accumulated balances on the 1st April, 1874, having been brought to account by debit to the Government of Bengal in 1875-76, and to there being no such balance credited in the account of 1876-77.

The increase of expenditure under "Education" is owing to the constitution of new primary schools, and that in collection of taxes and

cess to increased income. The increase in "Miscellaneous" is attributable to incorrect classification of charges, owing to non-receipt of proper details by the Deputy-Accountant-General in due time.

The decrease in expenditure under "Public Works" is attributable to less work having been done during the year under report, owing to most of the urgent works having been executed in the preceding year.

300. *District Post Fund.*—The receipts and expenditure of this fund in 1876-77 were Rs. 9,300 and Rs. 9,498, respectively, as compared with Rs. 9,260 and Rs. 9,489, respectively, in 1875-76.

It will be thus seen that there was a deficit of Rs. 229 at the close of 1875-76, and of Rs. 198 at the close of 1876-77. These deficits have, however, been made good in 1877-78. It is hoped that no deficit will occur again.

301. *Cantonment Fund.*—The comparative figures for this fund are—

	1875-76. Rs.	1876-77. Rs.
Receipts	3,037	3,233
Expenditure	1,603	2,673

302. *Williamson Education Fund.*—The receipts of this fund in the year under review amounted to Rs. 4,832, and the expenditure to Rs. 5,334. The receipts in the preceding year were Rs. 4,718, and the expenditure Rs. 4,647.

303. There remain now two other local funds, the figures for which could not be incorporated with the Abstract Account of Local Funds, *viz.*:—

(1) The Town Improvement Fund.

(2) The Bazaar Fund.

The receipts and expenditure of these two funds during the years 1875-76 and 1876-77 are given below:—

Town Improvement Fund.

	1875-76. Rs.	1876-77. Rs.	As.	P.
Receipts	49,624	66,428	2	6
Expenditure	18,851	14,564	5	10

Bazaar Fund.

	1875-76. Rs.	1876-77. Rs.	As.	P.
Receipts	17,562	19,063	14	6
Expenditure	1,380	4,933	2	4

It will be thus seen that the Town Improvement and Bazaar Fund accounts of 1876-77 were closed with a balance of Rs. 51,863-12-8 and Rs. 14,130-12-2, respectively. The balances are distributed as follows:—

Town Improvement Fund.

	Rs.	As.	P.
Kámrúp	7,799	1	8
Darrang	5,272	13	11
Nowgong	4,092	6	11
Sibságar	20,500	4	1
Lakhimpur	10,845	9	3
Khási Hills	3,353	8	10
Total	51,863	12	8

Bazaar Fund.

Darrang	8,065	0	6
Nowgong	6,065	11	8
Total	14,130	12	2

The Bazaar Fund exists (or rather existed) in Darrang and Nowgong only. It has been abolished since the close of the year under report, its assets having been transferred to the District Improvement Fund.

SECTION 3.—MUNICIPAL REVENUES.

304. An account of the receipts and expenditure of the several municipalities of the Province has already been given in Chapter III., Section 8 of this report.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

SECTION 1.—BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

305. The system of registration of vital statistics obtaining in this Province was explained in last year's report (para. 654, Part II.B.), and the general untrustworthiness of these statistics, and the cause thereof, stated.

The Chief Commissioner regrets to observe that the statistics for the year under review are quite as unreliable as those for previous years. He fears that their hopeless and evident inaccuracy is an index of the absence of interest evinced by the district officers in the working of the system of obtaining these statistics. It is certain that if the collection of statistics on any subject whatever is treated by the district authorities as merely a matter of indifferent and unimportant routine, the statistics supplied by their subordinates will be absolutely valueless. The Chief Commissioner cannot but think that, if the Deputy-Commissioners gave this matter some portion of their attention, it would be possible, at any rate in the selected areas, to obtain statistics which would rise above the level of absurdity. There is, however, a still further element of uncertainty in the results exhibited, owing to the doubt which attaches to the accuracy of the returns of population of these tracts from which the rates of births and deaths are deduced. The census, in any case, dates from five years back, and considerable changes in the population have probably occurred in the interval. The Chief Commissioner thinks, therefore, that it will be advisable, at the same time that the Deputy-Commissioners are stimulated to supervise these statistics more closely, to initiate some measures for verifying and, perhaps, for re-enumerating the population of the selected areas.

It is fruitless to comment on figures which are too ludicrous for record. It is enough to observe that these returns show for the urban circle of Kámrúp a death-rate of four-and-a-half times the total recorded population, while the rural circle of Cachar enjoyed the eminent salubrity of a death-rate of only 2 per 1,000.

An anomaly is presented in the birth-rates of selected areas. In Nowgong, Darrang, Sibságar, and Cachar, the urban rate is less than the rural. In Lakhimpur, Sylhet, and Goálpára, the reverse obtains. The cause of this difference cannot be explained, except on the presumption that the numbers married to single may vary in the urban and rural areas of districts; but the figures are most probably untrustworthy.

The birth-rate in the rural areas of Sibságar and Darrang, 45·5 and 43·3 per 1,000, respectively, and the rate in the urban area of Goálpára, 36·9, may be approximately correct; but the birth-rates, of 8·3 and 10·2 per 1,000 in the Cachar urban area and the Sylhet rural area, respectively, are clearly incorrect.

The question of the comparative annual increase or decrease of population in this Province is one, the accurate solution of which would be exceedingly interesting,—this solution is, however, very far off indeed.

SECTION 2.—IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR INSPECTION.

306. A brief account of the immigrant population of the Province, based upon the statistics for the year, will be given, and the different questions in connection with the working of the Immigration Act will be touched upon in this chapter; but, owing to the circumstances detailed in para. 666, Part II.B., of last year's report, any useful comparison between the statistics of the year under review and those of the preceding year is impossible.

Statistics of the total immigrant population.

307. At the commencement of the year 1876, the total immigrant population of the Province amounted to 112,788 souls, including children and infants. During the year 34,283 immigrants were imported, and 43,297 were otherwise brought on the books. The total number employed during the year was thus 190,368. 6,253 deaths occurred, giving a death-rate of 5·11 per cent. There were 5,821 desertions, *i.e.*, at the rate of 6·16 per cent. 42,435 immigrants were otherwise deducted, that is, by determination of contract, by redemption under Section 137 of Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873, by cancelment of contracts, by imprisonment, by release under Section 112 of the said Act, or from other causes. The total number thus removed being 54,509, the total number of immigrants remaining in the Province at the end of the year was 135,859, showing an increase of 23,071 in the immigrant population of the Province.

Statistics of Act VII. labourers.

308. At the commencement of the year 1876 there were 42,698 labourers on contracts under Act VII. of 1873 (B.C.) in the several tea districts of the Province. 19,813 such labourers were imported during the year, of whom 7,504 were recruited by garden-sirdars and 12,309 through contractors, and 1,520 were otherwise added.

The total number employed during the year was thus 64,031; of this number, 244 were released on account of permanent unfitness under Section 112 of the Act, 12,017 were released by determination of contract, 226 were released by redemption of remainder of contract under Section 137, and 156 by cancelment of contract under Sections 124 & 135; 2,967 persons died, 2,444 deserted, 236 were imprisoned, and 1,130 were otherwise deducted. The total number deducted was thus 19,420, and the number remaining at the end of the year was 44,611, giving a total increase of 1,913.

The death-rate among labourers on contracts under Act VII. during the year was 6·79 per cent., against 2·64 per cent., the death-rate among immigrants imported otherwise than under the provisions of the Act. The difference between the two death-rates is very marked; but it must be remembered that labourers who have become acclimatized are included among "other immigrants," and also that many of those latter, on falling ill, return to their homes, and that their deaths are not reported.

The death-rate, 11·37 per cent., among Act VII. labourers from the North-West Provinces is distressingly high. It is due, no doubt, to the fact of a large number of these labourers having been employed on newly-opened gardens. Other labourers, it was found, did not suffer in nearly so marked a degree in such gardens; but, under the existing provisions of the law, there was no mode of preventing the employment of these especially unsuitable labourers, except by closing the garden altogether to all imported labour. In order to meet such cases, a draft Regulation, empowering the Local Government to close a garden to any particular class of Act VII. labourers, was submitted to the Government of India, and has been approved of by the Governor-General in Council since the close of the year under report. The death-rate among other immigrants from the North-Western Provinces not imported under Act VII. contracts was only 2·96 per cent. These immigrants have greater freedom of selection of gardens than their Act VII. brethren, and this fact, no doubt, principally accounts for the low death-rate among them.

The desertion-rate among Act VII. labourers, and among non-Act labourers, during the year was 5·59 per cent. and 6·64 per cent., respectively.

These high desertion-rates are not, as might be surmised, an indication of harsh treatment by employers, but are almost entirely due to the bonus system, and to the unquestioning, nay, eager, readiness with which planters, as a rule, engage any coolie who seeks employment. The remedy for this state of things the planters themselves alone can apply.

Statistics of immigrants imported otherwise than under the provisions of Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873.

309. At the commencement of the year 1876 there were in the Province (not counting infants under two years) 61,584 labourers who had immigrated otherwise than under Act VII. contracts, of whom 26,138 were men, 20,061 were women, 9,001 were boys, and 6,384 were girls.

During the year 11,911 more of such labourers immigrated, of whom 4,432 were men, 3,130 were women, 2,527 were boys, and 4,349 were girls. The number of infants who arrived at the age of two years during the same period was 1,766. The number of labourers otherwise added to this class by expiry of Act VII. contracts, and under other circumstances, was 30,007. The total number of such immigrants employed in the Province during the year was thus 105,268. The deductions from this number, owing to departure from gardens without leave, were 4,086. Those who left with permission amounted to 22,866. Counting further deductions, on account of deaths 1,984, and for other causes 488, leaves the total number of labourers other than those on contracts under the Act remaining on the books at the end of the year 75,844.

The death and desertion-rates among this class of immigrants have already been commented upon. The number of infants born of imported women on the books at the commencement of the year was 8,506; the number of such infants remaining at the end of the year was 14,916. The rate of infant mortality was very high, 11·11 per cent

Inspection.

310. During the year 1876 there were 800 tea-gardens existing in the Province, as compared with 763 gardens existing in 1875. Of these 800 gardens, only 437 gardens employ Act VII. labourers, either exclusive of, or together with, other labourers; of these 437 gardens, 215 were visited only once, 103 were visited twice, and 9 thrice in the year, and 110 were left unvisited. The Chief Commissioner has noticed the number of gardens left unvisited by the Inspectors of Labourers, a feature which he considers by no means satisfactory. He trusts that better results may be exhibited in this respect in next year's returns.

Dhubri and Rajmehal route.

311. The object in opening this route was stated in para. 677, Part II.B. of last year's report. The immigration operations *viâ* this route during the whole of the year 1876-77 will be here described. During the above mentioned period, 296 batches of sirdari coolies, consisting of 3,770 emigrants, were despatched from the recruiting districts to Assam, *viâ* Dhubri, against 174 such batches, consisting of 2,694 emigrants, in the preceding year. Among the 3,770 emigrants, 160 deaths and 35 desertions occurred on the route, against 87 deaths and 16 desertions in 1875-76. The death and desertion-rates were, respectively, 4·2 per cent. and ·9 per cent., compared with 3·2 per cent. and ·6 per cent. in 1875-76. Of the 160 deaths, 112 alone occurred on the march from the recruiting districts to Dhubri; of these, 68 are attributed to an outbreak of cholera among the emigrants while passing through the district of Dinagepore. These statistics of mortality must, however, be received with caution, as it is believed, on good grounds, that the sirdars in charge of the batches report many coolies as having died who have really absconded. The death-rate during the river passage from Dhubri was only ·89 per cent., against 1·46 per cent. among the coolies embarked at Goalundo.

SECTION 4.—LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

316. There is only one Lunatic Asylum in this Province, that at Tezpur. To this Asylum are sent, as a rule, all insanes from districts in the Assam Valley. Insanes from the two districts in the Surmá Valley are, under special arrangements made with the Government of Bengal, sent to the Lunatic Asylum at Dacca.

The Tezpur Asylum was opened on the 1st April, 1876. The building is situated about a mile distant from the station of Tezpur, on an open plateau, and is of a very unpretentious character, consisting merely of mat huts, within a square enclosure, surrounded by a bamboo fence, and beyond by a hedge. This enclosure, which is 400 feet long each way, is divided into three compartments of unequal size, divided off by bamboo fencing. In the first compartment are ten huts for male insanes ; in the second compartment are three huts for female insanes; the third compartment contains the hospital, the cook-room, and two padded cells.

A building of the above description is, perhaps, hardly worthy of the name of Lunatic Asylum; but, the Provincial resources being for the present quite unable to bear the cost of a suitable building, the most that could be done was to provide accommodation, where a few insanes not of a violent character might be lodged with comparative security. Insanes of a violent character are placed in the cells of the Tezpur Jail.

64 patients were admitted into the Asylum during the nine months of 1876, of whom 43 were in fair health at the time of admission. Of the total number of patients admitted, 8 were criminal lunatics. Most of the patients were imported labourers. Acute mania was the chief type of insanity observable among the lunatics. The rate of mortality among the inmates was distressingly high, *viz*, nearly 26 per cent. of average strength, and 15 per cent. of number admitted. The expenditure during the year was comparatively large, being at the rate of Rs. 145-11-2 per head per annum, as shown in the margin. This high charge is to a great extent unavoidable, the cost of living in the Assam Valley being very much higher than in other parts of India. Moreover, owing to the insecurity of the building, a larger staff of keepers has to be entertained than would otherwise be necessary. The receipts of the institution were, as was to be expected, small, amounting to only Rs. 83-14, distributed thus :—

	Rs.	As.	P.
Establishment	61	10	6
Diet	53	8	5
Clothing	9	11	0
Medicines	0	4	8
Contingencies	20	8	7
Total ..	145	11	2

	Rs.	As.	P.
From manufactures	6	4	0
From paying patients	77	10	1

The value of the labour of the insanes has not been taken into consideration in this calculation. It is not, however, considerable. The arrangement of the building does not admit of the introduction of manufactures to any extent, and, besides, most of the inmates are

physically or mentally unfit for any kind of skilled labour. The services of the insanes are chiefly utilized in executing improvements and repairs, and in performing menial offices.

The insanes were, on the whole, well-behaved. There were two attempts at arson, and there were a few cases of assault. During the year seventeen insanes escaped from the asylum. They were all recaptured. Latterly, but few attempts at escape have been made.

The Chief Commissioner hopes that by degrees it may be possible to effect considerable improvements in the present premises; but he cannot see any immediate prospect of being able to provide for the expenditure necessary for the construction of a proper masonry building.

SECTION 5.—SANITATION.

317. Very little progress has yet been made in the matter of sanitation in this Province, as local conditions present many natural obstacles to even limited progress in this direction. The absence of a scavenger population, as noticed in last year's report, the peculiar formation of the country, the large, comparatively disproportionate, area occupied by swamps and dense jungle growth, obviously favour greatly the prevalence of diseases of a malarious origin. The gradual opening out of the Province and the increase of population may remove some of these obstacles. The proverbial apathy of the inhabitants, and their indifference and obstructiveness in matters of sanitary reform, are impediments still more difficult to overcome.

At head-quarters stations, however, much has already been accomplished. At Shillong, the drainage and water-supply have been improved, aqueducts conveying a supply of pure water throughout the station have been constructed, jungle growth has to some extent been cleared, and endeavours have been made to improve latrine arrangements. At Gauháti, the municipality has been persistent in its attempts to improve the sanitary condition of the station by providing latrines, conservancy labourers, and a superintending staff of employés. Similar measures have been adopted to some extent in other head-quarter stations. Further measures for improving the drainage at Gauháti and Goálpára are in contemplation.

The health of the troops occupying the military lines at Cachar has been much benefited by some alterations made in the drainage of the station.

The removal of jungle in the vicinity of the station of Tura has resulted in a marked general improvement in the health of the residents.

The improvement of the sanitary condition of the general agricultural population is a matter of special difficulty in this Province, not only from natural and physical causes, themselves a serious impediment, but, further, from the habit of the cultivating classes of living in scattered clusters of a few houses, instead of congregating in villages, a system which renders any sanitary control over a widely-scattered, as well as a scanty, population quite impossible. Sanitation must, therefore, for the present, be almost exclusively confined to the larger centres.

SECTION 6.—VACCINATION.

318. The number of vaccinators employed during the season of 1876-77, amounted to 95, of whom 79 were employed in the Kámrúp district; of these 78 were trained ex-inoculators, who earn a livelihood without any assistance from Government by charging a small fee (about four annas) for each operation. The salaries of 15 out of the remaining 17 vaccinators were defrayed by municipalities. The total cost to Government amounted to Rs. 1,286. The total amount of work performed was as the rate of 4·99 vaccinated per 1,000 of population. Though somewhat in excess of average years, the proportion is comparatively low, but it must be considered that the staff of operators is a very limited one. In districts where the relative proportions of staff to population were more equalized, results were satisfactory; thus, in the Gáro Hills, 36·76 per 1,000 of the population, and in Kámrúp 22·01 per 1,000 of the population were vaccinated.

The average number operated on by each vaccinator was 248·75. The percentage of successful cases amounted to 86·32 in primary and 94·73 in secondary vaccination. The total number vaccinated during the year amounted to 23,632, being in excess of the number vaccinated during the previous year by 1,657. Of the total number vaccinated, 9,496 were females.

The attitude of the people varies in different districts. Apathetic indifference and a predilection for ancient customs are the chief obstacles to be overcome,—where prejudices are founded on religious scruples, the difficulty is greater, and occasionally insuperable. The chief Gossain in the Province is said to be opposed to vaccination on religious grounds, and his influence, when thrown into the scale, increases the difficulties in the way of the progress of vaccine operations. Opposition has been completely overcome in the Gáro Hills; in other districts, notably in Kámrúp, Goálpára, and Cachar, it is dying out.

Of 3,276 prisoners, villagers, and schoolboys examined, only 9·09 per cent. were unprotected, 42·36 per cent. had been inoculated, 21·84 per cent. had been vaccinated, and 26·89 had suffered previously from small-pox.

The average cost to Government of each operation amounted to only 10½ pie, and the cost of each successful case to one anna one-tenth pie.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

SECTION 1.—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.—[*Blank.*]

SECTION 2.—EDUCATION.

319. The number of schools existing in the Province at the close of the year 1876-77 was 1,133, against 1,137 at the close of 1875-76. The number of pupils on the 31st March, 1877, was 31,925, as compared with 31,462 on the 31st March, 1876. In respect, therefore, to the number of schools, and the number of pupils under instruction, the position of the department was much the same as in the preceding year. Although there was a slight decrease in the total number of schools, yet there was an increase in the total number of pupils receiving instruction.

320. The total expenditure for the last two years was as shown below:—

Year.	1875-76.			1876-77.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Subscribed by the public	75,838	0	0	80,794	0	0
From Provincial Funds	1,55,584	0	0	1,44,413	0	0
From Local Funds	28,698	0	0	29,761	0	0
Total	2,60,120	0	0	2,54,968	0	0

It thus appears that, whereas the number of schools fell off by four only, the total expenditure on education was reduced by upwards of Rs. 5,000. In 1875-76, the contributions of the people came up to 29 per cent. of the total cost; in 1876-77 it amounted to nearly 32 per cent.

It is ascertained that in the plains districts one person in every 129, and in the hills districts one person in every 95, goes to school. In the preceding year, the proportions were one in 131, and one in 106, respectively. These figures evidence some advancement.

321. The following statistics, showing the proportion of persons under instruction to the general population in other Provinces besides Assam, are interesting, and are not unfavourable to this Province :—

Province.		People to each pupil.
Bengal		117
Madras		111
N.-W. Provinces		122
Oudh		171
Central Provinces		99
Panjab		152
Haiderabad districts		83
British Burmah		85
Assam ...	Plains	129
	Hills	95

322. The relative proportion of Hindus to Mussulmans at school during the year was 5 to 2. Educational statistics tend to show that the Mahomedan population of the Province are deplorably apathetic in matters relating to education. In 1874-75, one in 121 of the Hindu population, and one in 271 of the Mussulman population, went to school; in 1875-76 the corresponding proportions were one in 119 and one in 267; and in 1876-77 the proportions were one in 112 and one in 297, respectively. The diminishing attendance of Mussulman pupils shown in these returns does not, however, prove that neglect of all education is increasing among this class of the population. The purely secular teaching in the Government schools is distasteful to the Mahomedans, and they prefer, when possible, to send their children to the independent mukhtabs where the Koran is taught. These mukhtabs are believed to be on the increase. Colonel Keatinge has under consideration the question whether it would not be possible to improve the character of these mukhtabs, and by giving them assistance, conditionally on the adoption of a satisfactory course of education in addition to their religious studies, to bring them thereby under Government supervision and control.

It may be noted that, according to the departmental returns, the relative attendance of Hindus and Mahomedans is much the same in the districts of Goálpára, Kámrúp, and Darrang, while in the districts of Nowgong, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur the Mahomedans are proportionately better schoolgoers than the Hindus.

Out of the total number of pupils attending the schools in 1875-76, 79½ per cent. belonged to the lower classes of society; in 1876-77 the proportion was 80½ per cent.

Primary instruction.

323. The following statement shows an increase of two in the number of primary schools, and of 587 in the number of pupils receiving primary instruction:—

Year.	Schools.	Pupils.
1875-76	1,021	24,296
1876-77	1,023	24,883

The cost of these 1,023 schools came to Rs. 71,510, of which sum Rs. 48,005* were contributed by the State. The average daily attendance having been 17,620, the cost to Government of educating each pupil came to Rs. 2-11-7 out of Rs. 4-0-11. The public thus gave Re. 1-5-4 for each pupil, while in 1875-76 they contributed Re. 1-2-8. The cost of educating each pupil is ascertained by dividing by the average daily attendance; were it the practice to divide by the number of pupils on the rolls, all of whom have no doubt received some education, the cost to Government of each pupil would be found to be Rs. 1-14-11 out of Rs. 2-13-11, against Rs. 2-0-6 out of the same sum in the previous year.

* Rs. 25,748 from Local Funds.

It may be remarked here that, in addition to the pupils reading in primary schools, there were 2,733 scholars reading in middle and higher schools who were still in the primary stage of instruction. Thus, out of 31,925 pupils, 29,204, or 91·4 per cent., were receiving a primary education; in the year 1875-76 the percentage was 91·7.

324. *Secondary Instruction.*—(*a*) *Middle Vernacular Schools.*—These schools were less in number by 3 than in the preceding year, having fallen from 60 to 57. Their cost came to Rs. 25,918. The average cost per head to Government was Rs. 5-15-1 and to the public Rs. 5-14-8. It may thus be said that the people contribute one-half of the cost of the education of their children reading in middle vernacular schools. The attendance at these schools during the year was 2,970, against 3,322 in the previous year. This slight retrogression is probably only temporary.

325. (*b*) *Middle English Schools.*—These schools numbered 31, against 32 in 1875-76, but the number of pupils attending them rose from 1,971 in that year to 2,192 in the year under report. Their total cost came to Rs. 23,141, against Rs. 23,163 in 1875-76. In the year under report each pupil cost the State Rs. 5-13-5 out of a total cost of Rs. 15-14-5. The people thus contributed about two-thirds of the cost of the education imparted in these schools.

326. (*c*) *Higher Class Schools,—Schools teaching up to the University Entrance Standard.*—These schools consist of the eight zila schools and an unaided school situated in the town of Sylhet called the Mufti School. The average attendance at these schools during the past year was 1,133, against 1,158 in the preceding year. At the University Entrance Examination in 1876, 21 out of 38 candidates sent up from these schools passed. In no previous year had so large a number been successful.

The cost to Government of educating each pupil in the zila schools during 1876-77 was Rs. 19-5-1, and to the public Rs. 17-9-0.

In respect to these schools, it is satisfactory to observe the tendency of the public to contribute more liberally in each successive year towards the education of each student.

327. The number of female pupils attending the schools is on the increase, as will appear from the following statement:—

Female education.

District.	Number of female pupils.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1875-76.	1876-77.		
Cachar	59	75	16	....
Sylhet	20	55	35	....
Goálpára	31	50	19	....
Kámrúp	109	226	117	....
Darrang	70	48	....	22
Nowgong	76	55	....	21
Sibságar	133	72	....	61
Lakhimpur	8	37	29	....
Total districts of the plains	506	618	Net increase. 112	
Khási Hills	390	458	68	
Garo Hills	10	20	10	
Naga Hills	....	4	4	
Total hill districts	400	482	Net decrease. 82	
Grand Total	906	1,100	194	

In addition to the number of the girls actually attending the schools, it seems probable that a large number, of whom the department has no cognizance, may be getting some instruction at their homes; for in the year 1874-75 it was ascertained that more than 50 per cent. of the girls joining the schools of the Sibságar district had learnt how to read and write beforehand.

328. *Special Instruction.*—(*a*) *Normal Schools.*—At the close of the year there was a normal school at the head-quarters of each of the plains districts, excepting Cachar and Nowgong. During the year under review, these schools turned out 144 persons, who are now employed in teaching. In the previous three years, 351 teachers have been furnished.

In addition to the teachers supplied by the normal schools, many youths who have passed the vernacular scholarship examination are found ready to take primary-schoolmasterships, and it frequently happens that some of these turn out to be among the best teachers in the primary schools.

329. (*b*) *Technical Schools.*—The schools established from the Williamson Endowment Fund come under this head.

The artizan school at Jorhát is now working with fair success. Instruction is imparted in boat-building, wheel-making, furniture-making, and blacksmith's work. The survey school at Golághát did not prove popular there, and was far from successful. It has been discontinued since the close of the year, and in its stead a survey class (called the Williamson Survey Class) has been attached to the zila school at Sibságar.

SECTION 3.—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

330. During the year 1876, 37 books were registered, against nine registered in 1875, showing an increase of 28 books.

Of the 37 books registered, 13 were educational and 24 non-educational works, 21 were original works, 10 were translations, and 6 were re-publications.

The number of copies of educational works increased from 4,500 in 1875 to 11,600 in 1876, and the number of copies of non-educational works increased from 2,800 to 16,150.

With one exception, *viz.*, a work on "the peculiarity of the river names of Assam and some of the countries adjoining," which is in English, all the books published were written either in Bengali or Assamese.

The books registered in 1876 treat of the following subjects:—Biography, drama, fiction, history, language, poetry, religion, science, and miscellaneous subjects.

There is nothing noteworthy in any of these publications, which, as a rule, are of the nature of short pamphlets. Only three of them contain more than 100 pages.

The expenditure incurred, under Section 10 of Act XXV. of 1867, in the purchase of books during the years 1874, 1875, and 1876, is given below :—

1874.	1875.	1876.
Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
9 9 9	8 10 0	26 11 6

Fees levied under Section 18 amounted to Rs. 10. No necessity arose for any prosecution under Section 16 of the Act.

331. During the year 1876-77 there were six Presses in the Province,—one more than in the preceding year.

Four native papers were published in the Province during the year under review, against three published in 1875-76, *viz.*, the *Arunodoi* at Sibságar, the *Assam Bilasini* at Majuli, in Sibságar, the *Hitasadhini* in Goálpára, and the *Srihattaprokash* in Sylhet. Besides the four newspapers mentioned above, the Dihingu Gossain, of Nowgong, edits a monthly treatise on religious subjects, which is printed at Gauháti and finds sale among his disciples only. The circulation of these newspapers, as explained in last year's report, is very limited, and is chiefly among foreigners.

SECTION 4.—LITERARY SOCIETIES.

Nil.

SECTION 5.—ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Nil.

SECRETARIAT LIBRARY

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PART I.

STATISTICS OF PHYSICAL, POLITICAL, AND FISCAL GEOGRAPHY.

[1] A 1.—AREA CULTIVATED AND UNCULTIVATED AND COMMUNICATIONS (1876-77).

PRINCIPAL GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS OF TERRITORY.	TOTAL AREA IN SQUARE MILES.				UNAPPROPRIATED CULTURABLE WASTE IN ACRES.			COMMUNICATIONS—MILEAGE OF					REMARKS.
	Cultivated.	WASTE. Culturable.	WASTE. Unculturable.	Total.	Remaining last year.	Sold or granted during the year.	Remaining at close of year.	Navigable rivers.	MADE ROADS. First-class.	MADE ROADS. Second-class.	MADE ROADS. Third-class.	Railroads.	
BRITISH POSSESSIONS.													
Surmá Valley Districts — Sylhet	3,690	1,095	655	5,440	448,547	20	448,527	800	....	91	....	....	
Surmá Valley Districts — Cachar	451	2,500	799	3,750*	1,939,444	21,977	1,917,467	361	....	213	300	....	* The area in column 5 differs from the area entered in column 9 of Statement E. Fiscal, 2. owing to the inclusion in column 5 of all area which has neither been surveyed nor assessed.
Brahmaputra Valley Districts — Goálpárá including Eastern Duars	1,040	2,143	1,250	4,433	.....	....	.....	500	74	34	300	....	
Brahmaputra Valley Districts — Kamrúp	812	1,567	1,252	3,631	961,576	1,063	960,513	595	145	62	130	....	
Brahmaputra Valley Districts — Darrang	348	2,624	441	3,413	1,357,504	1,011	1,356,493	150	259	162	95	....	
Brahmaputra Valley Districts — Nowgong	389	2,117	909	3,415	.....	....	.....	169	....	....	163	....	
Brahmaputra Valley Districts — Sibságar	498	2,165	192	2,855	1,395,535	9,894	1,385,641	224	115	368	121	....	
Brahmaputra Valley Districts — Lakhimpur	147	3,386	190	3,723	2,148,903	4,958	2,143,945	940	120	475	306	....	
Total	7,375	17,597	5,688	30,660	.....	....	.....	3,739	713	1,405	1,415	....	
Hill Districts — Gáro Hills	....	....	....	3,180	.....	....	.....	150	....	67	....	....	
Hill Districts — Khasi Hills	112	1,335	713	2,160	855,680	1,280	854,400	....	53	51	....	....	
Hill Districts — Naga Hills	2,000	2,300	1,000	5,300	.....	....	.....	4	....	....	3	....	
Total	....	....	....	10,640	.....	....	.....	154	53	118	3	....	
NATIVE STATES.													
Khási and Jaintia Hills	176	2,561	1,260	3,997	1,639,040	....	1,639,040	....	45	195	....	....	
GRAND TOTAL	....	....	....	45,297	.....	....	.....	3,893	811	1,718	1,418	....	

A 2.—Character of the Surface.

[2] [*For details of this Table, see Part IIA., Chapter I. of this office General Administration Report for the years* 1874-75 *&* 1875-76.]

[3] A 3.—Climate (1876).

Places at which observations taken.	Rainfall in inches.				Average temperature in the shade.												Cloud proportion 0 to 10.		
					May.				July.				December.						
	January to May.	June to September.	October to December.	Total.	Mean of maximum readings	Mean of minimum readings.	Highest readings.	Lowest readings.	Mean of maximum readings.	Mean of minimum readings.	Highest readings.	Lowest readings.	Mean of maximum readings.	Mean of minimum readings.	Highest readings.	Lowest readings.	January to May.	June to September.	October to December.
Sibságar	27·66	49·97	6·10	83·73	84·8	70·6	95·7	66·9	89·9	77·5	94·7	74·8	73·3	48·3	77·4	42·3	8·02	9·28	6·53
Goálpara	18·00	61·43	8·46	87·89	84·3	70·5	94·1	66·3	87·2	76·7	91·1	74·5	75·0	54·5	78·5	50·7	2·54	6·18	1·70
Silchar	56·33	79·13	6·16	141·62	87·3	71·9	94·0	68·4	88·5	76·9	93·6	75·0	76·9	53·2	79·9	46·4	4·97	7·73	3·86
Sylhet	....	....	....	150·73	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Gauháti	....	....	....	65·86	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Tezpur	....	....	....	58·15	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Nowgong	....	....	....	63·90	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Dibrugarh	....	....	....	106·97	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Shillong	....	....	....	98·00	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Samaguting	....	....	....	53·76	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Tura	....	....	....	98·33	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
General Average	34·00	63·51	6·91	104·41	85·5	71·0	94·6	67·2	88·5	77·0	93·1	74·8	75·1	52·0	78·6	46·5	5·18	7·73	4·03

B.—Political Relations.

1. *Native and Tributary States for the year* 1876-77.

Name of State.	In subsidiary alliance or feudatory.	Tribute in men or money.	Population.	Supposed gross revenue.	Military force.	Transit dues or not.	Principal articles of production, including manufactures and mines.		
							Products.	Manufactures.	Minerals.
				Rs. A. P.					
MANIPUR. (Consists of the Manipur Valley Proper, and a large tract of hill country tributary to it.)	Independent but protected State: it has and exercises its own laws.	None.	Population of the valley .. 56,000 Hills .. 70,000 Total .. 126,000	Annually, and tax in kind upon land cultivated 55,000 0 0 to 60,000 0 0	Infantry 4,400 Artillery 500 Cavalry .. 400	Duties levied both on exports and imports.	Rice, dal, and vegetables of varieties, India-rubber, ivory, wax, ponies, buffaloes, and elephants.	Coarse cloths, yarns, brass, and hardware.	Iron ore, limestone, and salt.
KHÁSI HILLS.									
Bhawal ..	Subsidiary alliance.	Ditto.	369	Market dues .. 10 0 0 Malikana on lime-quarry .. .. 16,000 0 0 Total .. 16,010 0 0	None	None ..	Rice, millet, bay-leaves, black-pepper, "pepper nigrum."	None	Lime.
Cherra ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	8,060 .. .	Market dues .. 7,000 0 0 Judicial fines .. 150 0 0 Malikana on lime-quarry .. .. 200 0 0 Zemindari holding in Sylhet . .. 1,300 0 0 Total .. 8,650 0 0	Ditto	Ditto ..	Cotton, millet, betel-nuts, pan, oranges, black-pepper, "pepper nigrum," chillies, turmeric, ginger, and honey.	Bamboo mats and bamboo-baskets.	Lime, iron, and coal.
Shella ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	5,511	Market dues.. .. 300 0 0 Judicial fines .. 400 0 0 Total .. 700 0 0	Ditto	Ditto ..	Oranges, betel-nuts, pine-apples.	Bamboo mats and bamboo-baskets.	Lime and coal.

1. *Native and Tributary States for the year* 1876-77.—(*Continued.*)

NAME OF STATE.	In subsidiary alliance or feudatory.	Tribute in men or money.	Population.	Supposed gross revenue.	Military force.	Transit dues or not.	Principal articles of production, including manufactures and mines.		
							Products.	Manufactures.	Minerals.
Khyrim ..	In subsidiary alliance.	None.	20,504	Rs. A. P. Pension allowed by Government, Rs. 150 per mensem .. 1,800 0 0 Market dues .. 5,000 0 0 Judicial fines .. 400 0 0 Malikana on lime-quarry .. .. 1,900 0 0 Contributions for State purposes .. 1,000 0 0 Total .. 10,100 0 0	None	None ..	Rice, cotton, millet, job's-tears, caoutchouc, cinnamon, sohphlang (a kind of esculent), betel-nut, Indian-corn, betel, oranges, lac, potatoes, black pepper, "pepper nigrum," chillies, turmeric, ginger, honey.	Cotton cloth. Eriah, silk cloth. Dhaos Kodalies. Knives. Hammers. Crowbars. Wedges. Chisels. Bamboo baskets. Bamboo mats.	Lime. Coal. Iron.
Mylliim ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	12,266	Market dues .. 250 0 0 Contributions levied for State purposes 1,200 0 0 Judicial fines .. 225 0 0 Forest rent .. 15 0 0 Total .. 1,690 0 0	Ditto	Ditto ..	Cinnamon, sugar-cane, rice, potatoes, job's-tears, Indian-corn, sohphlang (a kind of esculent), ginger, millet.	Dhaos. Baskets.	Iron.
Langrin ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	1,867	Market dues .. 150 0 0 Malikana on lime-quarry .. .. 700 0 0 Forest rent .. 60 0 0 Fisheries .. 50 0 0 Total .. 960 0 0	Ditto	Ditto ..	Rice, millet, chillies, turmeric, ginger.	None	Lime. Coal.

Maharam ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	6,157	Contributions levied for State purposes Market dues .. Forest revenue .. Malikana on lime-quarry .. .. Judicial fines .. Total ..	400 0 0 120 0 0 55 0 0 350 0 0 120 0 0 1,045 0 0	Ditto	Ditto ..	Job's-tears, black-pepper, "pepper nigrum," chillies, bay-leaves, honey, rice, potatoes, millet, Indian-corn, sohphlang (a kind of esculent turnip) cinnamon, caoutchouc, sugar-cane, ginger.	Dhaos, kodalies, hammers.	Iron and lime.
Macyang ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	1,238	Lime-quarries .. House-tax .. .. Rent of fisheries .. Judicial fines .. Contributions levied for State purposes Total ..	252 8 0 9 0 0 50 0 0 100 0 0 90 0 0 501 8 0	Ditto	Ditto ..	Honey, bees'-wax, cotton, rice, millet, job's-tears, sohphlang (a kind of esculent turnip).	Mats	Lime.
Macsynram ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	947	Market dues .. *Contributions for State purposes .. Total ..	180 0 0 150 0 0 330 0 0	Ditto	Ditto ..	Potatoes, millet, chillies, turmeric, honey, ginger.	Ditto	Lime, coal, iron.
Malaisohmat ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	299	Market dues .. Malikana on lime-quarry .. .. Contribontions levied for State purposes Forest revenue .. Total ..	50 0 0 750 0 0 50 0 0 50 0 0 900 0 0	Ditto	Ditto ..	Rice, millet, job's-tears, ginger, chillies, turmeric, bay-leaves, betel-nut, oranges.	Ditto	Lime.
Marriao ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	2,306	Market dues .. Contributions levied for State purposes Total ..	25 0 0 100 0 0 125 0 0	Ditto	Ditto ..	Rice, millet, job's-tears, ginger, chillies, turmeric, sohphlang (a kind of esculent turnip), Indian-corn, sugar-cane.	Ditto	None.
Nobosopheh ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	961	Market dues .. Judicial fines .. Total ..	100 0 0 30 0 0 130 0 0	Ditto	Ditto ..	Rice, job's-tears, Indian-corn, sohphlang (a kind of esculent turnip), potatoes.	Ditto	Ditto.

* These contributions are of an uncertain nature.

1. *Native and Tributary States for the year* 1876-77.—(*Continued.*)

NAME OF STATE.	In subsidiary alliance or feudatory.	Tribute in men or money.	Population.	Supposed gross revenue.	Military force.	Transit dues or not.	Principal articles of production, including manufactures and mines.		
							Products.	Manufactures.	Minerals.
				Rs. A. P.					
Nongkhlaw ..	Subsidiary alliance.	None.	6,924	Market dues .. 600 0 0 Contributions levied for State purposes 800 0 0 Judicial fines .. 50 0 0 Forest dues .. 600 0 0 Rent of State lands 10 0 0 Total .. 2,060 0 0	None	None ..	Potatoes, rice, millet, job's-tears, Indian-corn, sohphlang (a kind of esculent turnip), caoutchouc, cannamon.	Cotton, kodalies, dhaos, crow-bars.	Lime.
Nongspung ..	Ditto .. .	Ditto.	871	Commission as mouzahdar in Kamrup district .. .. 100 0 0 Total .. 100 0 0	Ditto	Ditto ..	Rice, potatoes, honey, bees'-wax.	Dhaos ..	Iron.
Nongstain ..	Ditto	Ditto.	7,763	Market dues .. 1,000 0 0 Lime-quarries .. 900 0 0 Contribution levied for State purposes .. 1,500 0 0 Judicial fines .. 1,000 0 0 Total .. 4,400 0 0	Ditto	Ditto ..	Lac, honey, bees'-wax, cotton, caoutchouc, bay-leaves, rice, millet, job's-tears, sugar-cane, chillies, sohphlang (a kind of esculent turnip).	Earthenware, pottery, cotton cloth, dhaos, spades.	Lime and coal.
Rambrai ..	Ditto	Ditto.	1,737	Market dues .. 40 0 0 Judicial fines .. 150 0 0 Forest rent .. 250 0 0 Total .. 440 0 0	Ditto	Ditto ..	Rice, job's-tears, ginger, chillies, millet, Indian-corn.	Cotton cloth ..	None.

Jeerang ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	581	*Nil.*		Ditto	Ditto ..	Rice, millet, ginger, chillies, job's-tears, caoutchouc.	Ditto	None.
Duara Nongtyrmen.	Ditto ..	Ditto.	378 . ..	Malikana on lime-quarry	1,680 0 0	Ditto	Ditto ..	Rice, millet, oranges, betel-nut, betel-leaves, turmeric.	Small net ..	Lime.
				Fees for cutting timber	35 0 0					
				Total ..	1,715 0 0					
Maodon ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	253	*Nil.*		Ditto	Ditto ..	Millet, oranges, betel-nut, jack-fruit, pine-apples, chillies, bay-leaves.	None	Lime and coal.

2.—*Native Chiefs and Principal Male Members of their Families for the year* 1876-77.

Name of individual, and State and family to which he belongs.	Present position.	Caste or race and religion.	Age.	How educated.	How employed.	Has sunnad authorizing adoption or not.	Family follows primogeniture or not.	Has male heirs or not.	REMARKS
Manipur.									
Chandra Kirti Singh, *alias* Nowjinlell Nongdren Khombah; State Manipur; family Laiphum.	Maharajah. This title assumed about eighteen years ago, and sanctioned by Government of India.	Caste Khettri, religion Boisnab.	45 years ..	Fair (now English) education.	.....	Has no sunnad	Succession devolves upon eldest son.	Have ten sons. The eldest. named Sur Chundra Singh, at present Joobraj, will succeed to the Gudi.	Strong, healthy, intelligent man; fond of out-door sport; and has the good opinion of his subjects.
Dharma Satu Singh; family Laiphum.	Senapatti General.	Ditto ..	52 „ ..	Ditto ..	Try all military cases.	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Have eight sons.	
Sur Chundra Singh; family Laiphum.	Joobraj ..	Ditto ..	25 „ ..	Educated in Bengalee and Hindee.	Try civil cases, and is a Judge of the *Cherap* or Chief Court.	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	None.	
Kul Chundra Singh, *alias* Golap Singh.	Oang Khai Rakpa.	Ditto ..	23 „ ..	Reads and writes Bengalee.	Ditto ..	Ditto .	Ditto ..	Ditto.	
Jhallo Kirti Singh, *alias* Fyzowbah.	Samu Hanzaba	Ditto ..	22 „ ..	Ditto ..	Has charge of all the elephants.	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	
Tependra Singh, *alias* Koireng.	Katwal ..	Ditto ..	22 „ ..	Ditto ..	A Judge of the *Cherap* or Chief Court.	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	
Khási Hills, Shillong.									
U Baman Singh; State Bhawal.	Siem ..	Khási ..	17 „ ..	Uneducated ..	As Seim ..	Adoption is not allowed according to Khási custom.	Not ..	Succession elective..	Succession to Seimship is by election.
U Hajan Manick; State Cherra.	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	43 „ ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.
U Jitrai.... U Tab Rai U [illegible] Sing U Bihai.... State Shella.	Wahadadars ..	Ditto ..	30 „ .. 38 „ .. 45 „ .. 44 „ ..	Can read and write Khási and Bengali a little	As Wahadadars	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	
U Klur Singh; State Khyrim.	Siem ..	Ditto ..	33 „ ..	Uneducated ..	As Seim ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.

U Hain manics; State Myllim.	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	33 „ ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.
U Bor; State Langrin .	Ditto .	Ditto ..	26 „ ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto .	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.
U Andhar Sing; State Maharam.	Ditto .	Ditto ..	39 „ ..	Ditto ..	Ditto .	Ditto .	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.
U Ramman; State Maosynram	Ditto ..	Ditto .	30 „ ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto	Ditto .	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.
U Jit Singh; State Maoyang	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	34 „ ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto .	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.
U Shongnam Singh; State Malai Sohmat.	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	35 „ .	Ditto ..	Ditto .	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto .	Ditto .	Ditto.
U Ron Singh; State Marriaw.	Ditto	Ditto ..	29 „ .	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto .	Ditto ..	Ditto	Ditto.
U Ksan; State Nobosopho	Ditto	Ditto ..	29 „ .	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto	Ditto ..	Ditto .	Ditto	Ditto.
U Kune Singh; State Nangkhlaw.	Ditto ..	Ditto .	33 „ ..	Ditto ..	Ditto .	Ditto ..	Ditto	Ditto ..	Ditto	Ditto.
U Syntee Singh; State Nangspung.	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	45 „ ..	Ditto ..	Ditto .	Ditto ..	Ditto .	Ditto .	Ditto	Ditto.
U Don Sing, State, Nongstoin.	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	39 „ ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto	Ditto.
U Amar Singh; State Rambrai.	Ditto .	Ditto ..	39 „	Can read and write Assamese a little.	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto .	Ditto ..	Ditto	Ditto.
U Moit Singh; State Jirang	Sirdar .	Ditto	34 „ ..	Uneducated ..	As Sirdar .	Ditto .	Ditto .	Ditto ..	Succession to Sirdarship is by election.	
U Jantrai; State Duara Nongtyrmen.	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	30 „ ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	
U Mohor Singh; State Maodon.	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	30 „ ..	Ditto ..	Ditto .	Ditto .	Ditto ..	Ditto .	Ditto.	

[6] C.—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY (1876-77).

THE chief executive authority in the Province of Assam is the Chief Commissioner, established under Home Department Notifications Nos. 380, dated 6th February, 1874, and 2,344 of the 12th September, 1874. The Chief Commissioner is assisted by a Secretary with an Assistant, two Judges, Deputy-Conservator of Forests, Deputy-Surgeon-General, who is also *ex-officio* Sanitary-Commissioner, Inspector of Schools, who is also in Charge of Registration, Inspector-General of Police and Jails, who is also Commissioner of Excise and Stamps, and Deputy-Commissioners.

The following is a statement of the area, population, revenue, &c., of the different Deputy-Commissionerships and Revenue Sub-divisions of the Territory:—

Name of Chief Commissionership.		Names of the Executive Districts.	Number of Judicial and Revenue Sub-divisions.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Chief towns, with population.	Number of villages.	How many Civil and Revenue Judges of all sorts.	How many Magistrates of all sorts.	Maximum distance in miles of villages from nearest court.	Average ditto.	Number of police.	Total cost of officials and police of all kinds.	REVENUE. Land.	REVENUE. Gross.
ASSAM CHIEF COMMISSIONERSHIP.	Burma Valley Districts.	Sylhet	1	5,440	1,719,539	Sylhet 16,846 Kashba Baniáchang 22,164	6,854	9	14	From crimnl. 80 from civil .. 30	32	578	46,16,423	32,89,311	66,60,900
		Cachar	2	3,750	240,027	Silchar 3,729	*524	4	4	30	†9	492			
	Assam Valley Districts.	Goálpára	2	4,433	407,714	Goálpara 4,678 Dhubri 477 Gauripur 1,805	1,330	....	7	70	30	321			
		Kámrúp	2	3,631	561,681	Gauhati 8,709 Barpetá 13,100	1,649	5	11	45	22	298			
		Darrang	2	3,413	236,009	Tezpur 2,367	1,849	5	5	70	25	248			
		Nowgong	1	3,415	256,390	Nowgong 2,883	1,293	3	6	62	22	160			
		Sibságar	3	2,855	296,589	Sibságar 5,278 Jorhat 1,282 Golághát 1,569	1,696	12	6	50	33	283			
		Lakhimpur	3	3,723	121,267	Dibrugarh 2,774	840	6	6	100	32	246			
	Hill Districts.	Garo Hills	1	3,180	80,000	Tura	624	....	3	70	25	336			
		Khasi Hills	2	6,157	141,838	Shillong 1,363 Jowai 443 Cherra Poonjee 4,502	1,003	....	4	65	25	146			
		Nága Hills	1	5,300	68,918	Samaguting 746 Kohimah 4,325	278	....	2	....	....	164			
		Total	20	45,297	4,129,972	99,241	17,940	44	68	....	....	3,372			

* Six new villages were formed during the year by settlements of waste land.
† Exclusive of hill tracts.

D.—Population (1876-77).

Districts.	Inhabited Houses.		Population.						Classification of Population.										Occupation.		Prevailing Languages.
	Of the better sort.	Of the inferior sort	Men.	Women.	Children.		Total.	Number per square mile.	Christians.					Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Parsis.	Buddhists and Jains.	Aborigines.	Others.	Agriculturists.	Non-agriculturists.	
					Male.	Female.			Europeans.	Americans.	Armenians.	East Indians.	Natives.									
Surmá Valley Districts.																						
Sylhet	1,328	235,266	526,706	552,766	353,624	286,443	1,719,539	319	43	..	..	8	108	859,234	854,131	..	..	6,015	..	190,403	1,529,136	Bengali.
Cachar	25	37,286	69,536	61,781	40,837	32,873	*205,027	160†	236	..	..	22	151	128,219	74,361	..	49	30,000	1,989	40,853	164,174	Bengali, Manipuri, Cachari, Khási, Mikir, Assami, and Gurkhali.
Total	1,353	322,552	596,242	614,547	394,461	319,316	1,924,566	184	279	..	.	30	259	987,453	928,492	..	49	36,015	1,989	231,256	1,693,310	
Assam Valley Districts.																						
Goalpara	17	72,638	133,442	133,665	76,692	63,915	†407,714	91·97	27	..	..	16	98	311,419	89,916	..	..	6,238	..	102,838	304,876	Bengali.
Kamrup	70	103,838	185,461	173,091	107,227	95,902	561,681	155	62	..	..	22	120	515,024	45,823	..	182	448	..	507,525	54,156	Assamese.
Darrang	12	43,546	82,770	75,260	40,067	37,912	236,009	69	56	..	..	4	196	221,389	13,859	..	397	108	..	24,814	211,195	Ditto.
Nowgong	..	44,050	83,460	78,418	49,647	44,865	256,390	70	12	..	..	2	165	245,615	10,066	..	291	239	..	79,243	177,147	Ditto.
Sibsagar	..	55,604	99,718	90,245	55,222	51,404	296,589	123	150	..	..	6	127	282,969	12,619	..	153	565	..	78,268	218,321	Ditto.
Lakhimpur	..	26,398	42,025	36,299	22,669	20,276	121,267	39	138	..	..	7	171	115,638	3,826	..	449	1,038	..	32,695	88,572	Ditto.
Total	99	346,074	626,874	586,978	351,524	314,274	1,879,650	..	445	..	..	57	877	1,692,054	176,109	..	1,472	8,636	..	825,383	1,054,267	
Hill Districts.																						
Gáro Hills	..	..	..	..	..	..	80,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	350	30,207	39,982	44,298	28,611	28,947	141,838	23	35	..	..	8	85	385	62	..	..	141,283	..	..	..	Khási and Synteng.
Naga Hills	1	14,101	..	..	..	..	68,918	14·47	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Angami, Kutcha Rengma, Naga, Cachari, Assamese, Mikir, Kuki, &c.
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	290,756	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Grand Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,094,972	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	

* This is exclusive of hill tribes, whose estimated total number is shown in column headed "Aborigines."
† This number is calculated on 1,285 square miles of the district, in which the census was taken.
‡ Exclusive of Eastern Duárs.

[8]

E.—Fiscal (1876-77.)

1. *Survey and Settlement.*

Survey.

Area previously surveyed in miles.			Cost per mile.		Surveyed during the year, with cost per mile.	
Topographically.	Revenue. By villages.	Revenue. By fields.	Topographical.	Revenue.	Topographical.	Revenue.
			Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.		
21,855	27,686	..	18 3 4	66 7 1	717 square miles, cost Rs. 27 per mile.	....

Settlement.

Nature of Settlement.	Area in miles.	Annual revenue assessed.	Date of expiry of Settlement.	Remarks.
		Rs.		
Settled in perpetuity	5,497·55	3,78,648	.....	
" for thirty years or upwards	197·46	26,263	1906 to 1961	
" " ten years and under thirty	1,650·61	2,91,175	1878 to 1896	
" under ten years	3,882·88	23,19,552	31st March, 1877,	
" in progress	392	15,356	.....	
Total.....	11,627·50	30,30,994	.....	
Settlements previously made, including full record of rights	3,752·39	4,08,292	.....	
Settlements without such record	5,497·55	3,78,648	.....	
Settlements during the year } Detailed	....	....	.....	
Settlements during the year } Summary	1,985.56	22,28,698	.....	

2.—*Surveyed and Assessed Area in Acres* (1876-77).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
District.	CULTIVATED.				UNCULTIVATED.			Total area assessed.	ASSESSMENT.			
	Irrigated.		Unirrigated.	Total.	Grazing lands.	Culturable.	Un-culturable waste.		Gross amount.	Rate per acre on cultivation.	Rate per acre on culturable land.	Rate per acre on total area of settlement.
	By Government works.	By private individuals.										
									Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Cachar	.....	.....	257,285	257,285	15,000	53,368	.....	325,653	1,63.886	.....	.....	0 8 0
Sylhet	.....	11,380	2,075,068	2,086,448	.....	686,190	151,532	2,924,170	4,83,338	.....	.....	0 2 8
Goálpara	.....	.....	665,600	665,600	.....	1,371,520	800,000	2,837,120	61,829	.....	.....	0 0 4
Kámrúp	.....	.....	519,808	519,808	.....	.....	.....	519,808	8,59,143			
Darrang	.....	27,611	194,618	222,229	.....	780	.....	223,009	3,80,774			
Nowgong	.....	5,230	211,935	217,165	.....	3,270	.....	220,435	3,82.375	2 2 3	.....	2 2 3*
Sibságar	.....	.....	293.384	293,384	.....	.....	.....	293,384	5,30,206			
Lakhimpur	.....	.....	96,908	96,908	.....	.....	.....	96.908	1,67,540			
Gáro Hills	.....	.....	204	204	.....	.....	.....	204	872	.....	.....	.....
Khasi and Jaintiá Hills	.....	.....	251	251	.....	.....	.....	251	223	.....	.....	.....
Naga Hills	.....	.....	728	728	.....	.....	.....	728	808	2 2 3	.....	2 2 3*
Total and average rates	.....	44,221	4,315,789	4,360,010	15,000	2,115,128	951,532	7,441,670	3,030,994	.....	.....	.....

* Average.

[10] E.—FISCAL (1876-77).

3.—*Varieties of Tenure held direct from Government.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
NATURE OF TENURE.	Number of estates.	Number of villages.	Number of holders or shareholders.	Gross area in acres.	Average area of each estate in acres.	Average assessment of each estate.	Revenue rate per acre.	Supposed net profit per acre.
						Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
Great zemindaries, paying more than Rs. 50,000 revenue. — Held by individuals under law of primogeniture	.....	....	....	.....	....	.....	.....	Not known.
Great zemindaries, paying more than Rs. 50,000 revenue. — Held by individuals and families under ordinary law.	.....	....	....	.....	....	.....	.....	
Large zemindaries, paying more than Rs. 5,000 revenue. — Under law of primogeniture.	.....	....	....	.....	....	.....	.....	
Large zemindaries, paying more than Rs. 5,000 revenue. — Under ordinary law.	7	....	1	375,265	53,609	728 0 0	0 0 0	
Small zemindaries other than those of cultivating communities.	724	1,038	3,243	2,760,664	3,813	113 0 0	1 0 0	
Proprietary cultivating communities paying in common.	8,655	337	82,740	302,628	35	18 0 0	0 5 0	
Proprietary cultivators paying separately, including all small estates paying less than Rs. 100.	477,171	7,846	949,287	39,61,782	8	6 0 0	0 10 0	
Holders of revenue-free tenures. — In perpetuity	454	55	363	59,532	131	.....	.....	
Holders of revenue-free tenures. — For life	522	1,451	2,341	24,953	48	.....	.....	
Grants held under the rules of 1838 and 1854.	100	50	94	94,634*	946	.....	.....	
Landholders who have redeemed the revenue.	1,668	185	1,930	259,121*	155	.....	.....	
Purchasers of waste lands	327	91	293	192,254	588	.....	.....	
Total.....	489,628	11,053	1,040,292	8,030,833	16	.....	.....	....

* Of those areas, 41,331 acres were assessed during the year.

[11] E.—FISCAL.

4.—*Varieties of Tenure not held direct from Government* (1876-77).

[No data.]

[12]

E.—Fiscal (1876-77.)

5.—*Register of Transfers.*

Nature of Tenure Transferred.	Number of transfers recorded.			Average area, in acres, of each holding transferred.			Remarks.
	By voluntary sale or gift.	By compulsory sale.	By inheritance.	By voluntary sale.	By compulsory sale.	By inheritance.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P	
Great zemindaries, complete	....	....	....	....	....	....	
Shares in ditto	....	....	....	....	....	....	
Large zemindaries	....	....	....	....	....	....	
Shares in ditto	....	....	....	....	....	....	
Small zemindaries	1,561	....	....	5-1-5	....	....	
Shares in ditto	918	....	72	13-2-39	....	3-0-0	
Villages owned by cultivating communities	133	....	....	11-0-15	....	....	
Shares in ditto	1,387	117	....	4-0-16	6-3-8	....	
Holdings of proprietary cultivators	....	....	....	....	....	....	
Intermediate holdings of a transferable character.	....	....	....	....	....	....	
Holdings of ryots at fixed rates	337	23	18	60-2-28	12-0-0	339-0-0	
Holdings of ryots with right of occupancy	81	4	26	305-3-22	8-0-0	522-0-0	
Revenue-free tenures	11	....	3	1,585-2-0	....	1,066-0-0	

[3]

E.—Fiscal (1876-77.)

6.—*Land Revenue.*

Description of Revenue.	Revenue last year.		Revenue this year.		Cost of collections.	Net collections during the year.	Outstanding balances.	Number of sales for arrears of revenue.	Revenue of estates sold.	Cause of increase or decrease of revenue, with explanation of any items realized in addition to the annual assessed revenue.
	Assessed.	Realized.	Assessed.	Realized.						
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
From settled estates bearing revenue in past years.	4,17,331	.....	4,17,202	.....	.....	.....	.....	....	....	Increase in the land revenue is due to the extension of cultivation and reassessment of old holdings at enhanced rates.
Settled estates added to revenue-roll during present year.	12,602	.....	8,919	.....	.....	.....	.....	....	....	
Settled estates taken off revenue-roll during present year.	6,946	.....	48	.....	.....	.....	.....	....	....	
	4,22,987	3,03,149	4,26,073	3,32,530	.....	3,32,530	93,543	107	9,630	
Collections from Government estates	24,94,096	24,46,554	26,04,921	25,51,598	2,56,107	22,95,491	53,212*	428	1,189	* Rs. 111 were remitted in the districts of Nowgong and Lakhimpur.
Income from sale of Government estates.....	34	34	8	8	.....	8	.....	....	....	
Miscellaneous land revenue not included in above.	2,78,077	2,26,439	2,23,650	2,07,666	6,662	2,01,004	15,434†	....	....	† Rs. 550 were paid in advance during the preceding year.
Total.....	31,95,194	29,76,226	32,54,652	30,91,802‡	2,62,769	28,29,033	1,62,189	535	10,819	

‡ Besides this amount, Rs. 9,159 were paid in advance for future years, *viz.* Rs. 23 for land revenue and Rs. 9,136 for miscellaneous revenue.

Part II.—STATISTICS of PROTECTION.

A.—Legislative 1, 2, & 3.

Serial Nos. 14, 15, and 16, are Blank.

1. *Showing the various Judicial Tribunals, Original and Appellate, existing in the Province of Assam on the last day of the year* 1876.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Class of Tribunals, distinguishing those which exercise powers in one department from those exercising powers in two or three departments, and those consisting of paid from unpaid Judges.	Number of judicial divisions.	Average area of each division in square miles.	Average population of each division.	Number of tribunals.	Constitution of tribunals, stating number of Judges in each, and jury or assessors, if any.	Judicial powers of each tribunal, original and appellate.
Magistrate of 3rd class, exercising criminal powers only Unpaid ..	13	695	57,821	15	1 Judge, no assessor or jurors ..	Third-class Magistrate.
Ditto exercising criminal and revenue powers ..... Paid	1	5.440	1,719,539	2	1	Original.
Ditto exercising criminal and civil powers ..... Paid	1	4.524	139.356	1	1	Third-class Magistrate and Munsiff.
Ditto exercising criminal, civil, and revenue powers Paid	3	1,758	163.870	3	1	Third-class Magistrate, Munsiff, and Deputy-Collector.
Ditto of 2nd class, exercising criminal powers only .... Unpaid	2	1.113	138,149	2	1	Second-class Magistrate.
Ditto ditto criminal and revenue powers Paid ..	1	5.440	1,719,539	5	1	Original
Ditto civil, criminal and revenue powers Paid ..	5	1,643	166,089	6	1	Second-class Magistrate.
Magistrate of 1st class, exercising criminal and revenue powers Paid	1	5.440	1.719,539	2	1	Original and appellate.
Ditto ditto criminal and civil powers..... Paid	2	2.500	102.513	2	1	First-class Magistrate and Munsiff.
Ditto ditto criminal, civil and revenue powers Paid	13	1,243	99,125	13	1	13 First-class Magistrates and Deputy-Collectors, 11 Munsiffs, and 2 Sub-Judges.
Magistrates of Districts	8	10,919	2,090,604	8	1 Judge, and 2 assessors ..	Sub-Judge, Civil Judge, Magistrates of the Districts, and Collectors.
District Judges	3	26,297	3.599,407	3	1 Judge, 5 jurors, 2 assessors ..	Civil Judge, Original and appellate.
Munsiffs exercising civil powers only.....	5	5.440	343,807	5	1	Original.
Sub-Judge, with powers of a Small Cause Court Judge up to Rs. 50	1	5.440	1.719.539	1	1	Ditto and appellate.
Court of Sessions	3	26,297	3,599,407	3	1	Appellate.

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.—(*Continued.*)

1. *Showing the various Judicial Tribunals, Original and Appellate, existing in the Province of Assam on the last day of the year* 1876.

Class of Tribunals, distinguishing those who exercise powers in one department from those exercising powers in two or three departments, and those consisting of paid from unpaid Judges.	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Prescribed qualification of Judges previous to appointment.	Total number of Judges. European. Covenanted.	Total number of Judges. European. Commissioned Military officers.	Total number of Judges. European. Uncovenanted.	Total number of Judges. Native.	Average annual salary of each paid Judge. European.	Average annual salary of each paid Judge. Native.	Total cost of Tribunals.	Net receipts from stamps.
						Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	
Magistrate of 3rd class exercising criminal powers only..Unpaid..	.....	..	..	9	6	....	....	853 8 0	
Ditto criminal and revenue powers .....Paid	.....	1	..	..	1	1,262 4 0	1,100 0 0	5,715 0 3	
Ditto criminal and civil powers..... Paid	.....	..	..	..	1	....	4,800 0 0	6,151 7 6	
Ditto criminal, civil, and revenue powers ....Paid	.....	..	..	..	3	....	2,713 0 0	11,562 1 6	
Ditto of 2nd class, exercising criminal powers only .. Unpaid ..	.....	..	..	1	1	....	....	232 0 0	
Ditto criminal and revenue powers..... Paid	.....	..	..	1	4	3,289 8 0	2,032 14 5	37,753 5 0	
Ditto criminal, civil, and revenue powers.... Paid	.....	..	..	1	5	3,000 0 0	3,578 14 1	37,834 1 0	
Ditto of 1st class exercising criminal and revenue powers Paid ..	.....	..	..	2	..	9,770 0 0	....	22,165 10 0	
Ditto criminal and civil powers ..... Paid	.....	1	..	..	..	9,538 11 3	....	10,090 11 3	
Ditto criminal, civil, and revenue powers .. Paid	.....	2	3	4	4	7,284 12 8	3,579 3 2	1,07,339 11 3	
Magistrates of Districts	One Civil Service	2	5	1	..	18,750 0 0	....	3,24,640 6 1	
District Judges	.....	3	..	..	..	30,000 0 0	....	38,813 7 6	
Munsiffs exercising civil powers only	.....	..	..	..	5	4,613 6 2	4,613 6 2	....	
Sub-Judge.....	.....	..	..	..	1	....	7,200 0 0	....	
Courts of Session	.....	2	..	..	..	....	....	....	

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.—(*Continued.*)

1. *Showing the various Judicial Tribunals, Original and Appellate, existing in the Province of Assam on the last day of the year* 1876.

	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Class of Tribunals distinguishing those who exercise powers in one department from those exercising powers in two or three departments and those consisting of paid from unpaid Judges.	Executive or other functions exercised by the same officers.	Average number of days in the year devoted to judicial work.	Average number of advocates attached to each tribunal.	Number of cases decided during the year.			
				Criminal.	Civil.	Revenue.	Appeal.
Magistrate of 3rd class exercising criminal powers only....Unpaid	1 Assistant-Conservator of Forests.....	102	.....	444	.....	.....	.....
Ditto exercising criminal and revenue powers .....Paid ..	Assistant-Inspector of Labourers. Had charge of settlement work.	22	.....	345	.....	.....	.....
Ditto exercising criminal and civil powers	Munsiff of sudder station	232	7	22	1,236	.....	.....
Ditto exercising criminal, civil, and revenue powers	1 Sub-registrar and Treasury officer, 1 exercises judicial powers only.	157	10	368	1,454	103	.....
Ditto of 2nd class exercising criminal powers only .....Unpaid	.....	147	.....	85	.....	.....	.....
Ditto exercising criminal and revenue powers .....Paid ..	Had charge for a time of cases under Act XL, mutation cases.	152	.....	2,313	.....	.....	.....
Ditto civil, criminal and revenue powers.....	2 Sub-Registrars. 1 Treasury officer, 2 judicial powers only.	229	27	458	3,239	88	.....
Ditto of 1st class exercising criminal and revenue powers ..Paid ..	Had charge of Treasury and redemption cases, and settlement work.	137	.....	1,832	.....	.....	.....
Ditto exercising criminal and civil powers	Assistant-Commissioner, Assistant Inspector of Labourers, and powers of a Munsiff.	10 days in the civil court and no data available for other courts.	.....	780	11	.....	.....
Ditto criminal, civil, and revenue powers	Extra-Assistant-Commissioner, had powers of a Munsiff, Sub-Registrar, Jail officer, Treasury officer, &c.	186	42	3,228	3,318	134	30
Magistrates of Districts	Chief Executive officers of the district, District Registrar, Chairman of the Municipal Committee, Political officer for Hill tribes, Registrar of Marriages.	130	9	3,086	54	1,951	739
District Judges	.....	138	16	.....	447	.....	306
Munsiffs exercising only civil powers.....	.....	.....	15	.....	15,796	.....	.....
Subordinate Judge.....	.....	248	16	.....	1,127	.....	611
Courts of Session	.....	129	17	17	2	.....	494

[18] B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

2. (*Criminal*).—*Statement of offences reported, and of persons tried, convicted, and acquitted, for each offence in the Province of Assam in the year* 1876.

	DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCES.	Sections of Penal Code applicable.	Number of offences reported during the year.	Number of persons under trial during the year.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Died, escaped, transferred.	Remaining under trial.	REMARKS. (The number committed out of those remaining under trial has been noted in this column.)
		Sections.							
1	Offences against the State	121 to 130	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
2	Offences relating to the army and navy	131 to 140	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
3	Offences against public tranquillity. — Unlawful assembly.	143 to 145, 149 to 151, 157, 158.	112	362	127	223	..	12	....
4	Offences against public tranquillity. — Rioting, &c.	147, 148, 152, and 153 to 156.	204	887	155	659	3	70	....
5	Offences against public tranquillity. — Affray	160	47	123	13	110	..	..	....
6	Offences — By public servants	161 to 169	33	40	19	20	.	1	....
7	Offences — Relating to public servants.	161 to 170 and 171.	7	8	1	7	..	..	....
8	Contempt of lawful authority	172 to 190	450	1,251	231	998	1	21	....
9	False evidence, or subornation, &c., of the same.	193 to 200	81	155	65	79	..	11	4
10	Offences against public justice	201 to 229	182	256	86	161	2	7	2
11	Offences relating to coin	231 to 254	29	29	5	23	..	1	....
12	" to stamps	255 to 263	3	3	..	2	..	1	....
13	" to weights and measures	264 to 267	14	20	8	11	..	1	....
14	" affecting public health	269 to 278	41	47	5	42	..	..	....
15	" " safety	279 to 289	155	186	18	168	..	..	....
16	" " convenience	290 and 291	79	89	6	83	..	..	....
17	" relating to decency and morals	292 to 294	3	14	1	13	..	..	....
18	" " religion	295 to 298	....	1	..	1	..	..	....
19	Murder	302 and 303	31	54	25	14	1	14	8
	——attempts	....	2	3	3	..	..	..	....
20	Culpable homicide	304	35	48	25	13	1	9	5
21	Abetment at suicide	305 and 306	13	14	3	10	..	1	....
	——attempts	....	11	7	3	4	..	..	....
22	Thuggee, &c.	311	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
23	Causing miscarriage. — Attended with aggravating circumstances.	312 to 315	8	9	9	..	..	..	....
24	Causing miscarriage. — Other cases	312	57	1	1	..	..	..	....
25	Injury to unborn children	316	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
26	Exposure of infants	317	7	5	5	..	..	..	....
27	Concealment of birth by secret disposal of the dead body.	318	3	4	..	4	3	..	....
28	Hurt — With aggravating circumstances.	325 to 331 and 333.	62	46	8	34	1	1	....
29	Hurt — Other cases	323, 324, 332, and 334 to 338.	532	543	159	374	..	9	....
30	Wrongful restraint	341	60	78	42	36	1	..	....
31	" confinement	342 to 348	602	437	229	188	..	19	....
32	Criminal force or assault	352 to 358	5,302	3,024	1,447	1,550	..	27	....
33	Kidnapping or forcible abduction — With aggravating circumstances.	364, 366, 367	8	14	6	8	..	..	....
34	Kidnapping or forcible abduction — Other cases	363, 365, 368, 369.	28	33	14	15	..	4	....
35	Slavery	370 and 371	2	4	2	..	..	2	....
36	Buying or selling a minor for the purpose of prostitution.	372 and 373	3	9	7	2	..	..	....
37	Forced labour	374	3	3	1	2	..	..	....
38	Rape	376	43	25	22	2	..	1	....
39	Unnatural offences	377	13	12	6	5	..	1	....

[18] B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.—(*Continued.*)

2. (*Criminal*).—*Statement of offences reported, and of persons tried, convicted, and acquitted, for each offence in the Province of Assam in the year* 1876.

	Description of Offences.	Sections of Penal Code applicable.	Number of offences reported during the year.	Number of persons under trial during the year.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Died, escaped, transferred.	Remaining under trial.	Remarks. (The number committed out of those remaining under trial has been noted in this column).
		Sections.							
40	Theft ..... With aggravating circumstances.	382	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
41	Theft ..... Other cases.....	379 to 381 and 401	3,096	2,029	781	1,182	3	63	....
	Attempts	....	2	2	..	2	..	..	....
42	Extortion .. With aggravating circumstances.	386 to 389	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
43	Extortion .. Other cases.....	384 and 385	93	63	38	19	..	6	....
44	Robbery.... With hurt	394	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
45	Robbery.... Other cases.....	392	37	37	28	8	..	1	....
46	Dacoity .... With murder	396	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
47	Dacoity .... With attempt to cause death or grievous hurt.	397	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
48	Dacoity .... Other cases	395, 399, 400, and 402	10	28	17	6	..	5	1
49	Criminal misappropriation of property..	403 and 404	158	131	50	81	..	..	....
50	Breach of trust.....	406 to 409	260	163	85	72	1	5	....
51	Receiving or habitually dealing in stolen property or plundered property.	411 to 414	260	482	107	355	1	19	1
52	Cheating	417 to 420	218	142	75	57	1	9	....
	Attempts	....	2	4	..	4	..	..	....
53	Fraudulent deeds and disposition of property.	421 to 424	2	2	2	..	..	..	....
54	Mischief .. With aggravating circumstances.	429 to 433 and 435 to 440	171	99	42	53	.	4	1
55	Mischief .. Other cases.....	426 to 428 and 434	857	592	264	308	..	20	....
56	Criminal trespass. Resulting in death or other grievous hurt.	459 and 460	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
57	Criminal trespass. For commission of serious offences.	449 to 450, 451, 452, 454, 455, 457, and 458	628	175	63	110	..	2	....
58	Criminal trespass. Other cases	447, 448, 453, 456, 461, and 462	728	688	284	391	3	10	....
59	Forgery or uttering or possessing forged documents or papers.	456 to 471 and 474	22	27	14	11	..	2	1

[18] B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.—(*Continued.*)

2. (*Criminal*).—*Statement of offences reported, and of persons tried, convicted, and acquitted, for each offence in the Province of Assam in the year* 1876.

	DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCES.	Sections of Penal Code applicable.	Number of offences reported during the year.	Number of persons under trial during the year.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Died, escaped, transferred.	Remaining under trial.	REMARKS. (The number committed out of those remaining under trial has been noted in this column).
		Sections.							
65	Criminal breach of contract of service..	490 to 492	23	21	11	8	..	2	....
66	Offences relating to marriage	493 to 498	434	197	163	26	..	8	....
67	Defamation	500 to 502	80	49	37	12	..	..	....
68	Criminal intimidation, insult or annoyance. — Resulting in death or other grievous hurt.	506	2	2	1	1	..	..	....
69	Criminal intimidation, insult or annoyance. — Other cases	504 to 510	75	69	18	51	..	..	....
70	Other offences not included in the above specifications.	....	3,273	4,329	849	3,445	4	31	....
	Total.....	....	18,696	17,175	5,686	11,063	26	400	28

3. (*Criminal*).—*Statement showing the general result of Criminal Trials in the Tribunals of various classes in the Province of Assam in the year* 1876.

CLASS OF TRIBUNAL.	Number of persons dealt with.							Persons disposed of.							
	Remaining at end of last year.	Brought to trial during present year.				Received by transfer.	Total.	Discharged without trial.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Committed or referred.	Died, escaped, or transferred.	Remaining at end of year.	Average number of days during which each case lasted.	Number of witnesses who attended.
		Under arrest by police.	Upon warrant.	On summons.	Voluntarily.										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Bench Magistrates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unpaid Magistrates	2	15	129	604	45	...	795	131	222	438	...	1	3	5	1,875
Local and Subordinate paid Magistrates	183	1,669	623	2,538	126	...	5,139	682	1,086	3,153	38	8	172	9	10,996
Full-power Magistrates exercising jurisdiction throughout the district	166	3,647	1,315	4,154	247	..	9,529	1,010	1,949	6,292	95	10	173	8	17,455
Chief Magistrates of districts	53	688	188	698	48	...	1,675	207	316	1,105	14	4	29	4	1,719
Total Magistracy	404	6,019	2,255	7,994	466	...	17,138	2,030	3,573	10,988	147	23	377	...	32,027
Sessions Courts	35	1	...	1	...	147	184	3	80	75	...	3	23	62	843
High Court (referred jurisdiction)	2	...	...	...	...	11	13	...	2	11	...	...	...	...	...
GRAND TOTAL	441	6,020	2,255	7,995	466	158	17,335	2,033	3,655	11,074	147	26	400	...	32,870

4. (*Criminal*).—*Statement showing the Punishments inflicted by various Criminal Tribunals in the Province of Assam in the year* 1876.

CLASS OF TRIBUNAL.	PERSONS SENTENCED TO												PERSONS ORDERED TO FIND OR GIVE		
	Death.	Transportation.		Penal servitude.	Imprisonment.			Forfeiture of property.	Fine.		Whipping.		Surety of peace.	Recognizance.	Surety for good behaviour.
		For life.	For a term.		Rigorous.		Simple.		With imprisonment.	Without imprisonment.	In addition to other punishment.	In lieu of other punishment.			
					With solitary confinement.	Without solitary confinement.									
Bench Magistrates	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Unpaid Magistrates	..	..	..	..	..	38	1	..	18	399	..	..	..	..	.
Local and Subordinate paid Magistrates	....	..	..	..	..	926	96	..	312	2,014	6	36	..	11	10
Full-power Magistrates (exercising jurisdiction throughout the districts).	..	..	..	..	1	1,988	43	..	490	2,503	34	193	40	1,103	102
Chief Magistrates of districts (district Magistrates)	..	..	..	..	..	352	10	..	20	454	1	27	6	88	5
Total Magistracy	..	..	..	..	1	3,304	150	..	840	5,370	41	256	46	1,202	117
Sessions Courts	9	3	15	..	..	45	3	..	18	..	..	..	..	..	..
GRAND TOTAL	9	3	15	..	1	3,349	153	..	858	5,370	41	256	46	1,202	117

N.B.—This Statement does not include the following convictions, there being no appropriate headings to indicate the 542 persons convicted under Chapters 39, 40, & 41 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, &c.

B.—Judicial Statement.—(*Contin*

4. (*Criminal*).—*Statement showing the Punishments inflicted by various Criminal Tribunals in the Province of Assam in the year* 1876.

Class of Tribunal.	Detail of Punishment.																						
	Fine.									Imprisonment.										Whipping.		
	Rs. 10 and under.	Rs. 50 and under.	Rs. 100 and under.	Rs. 500 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Above Rs. 1,000.	Total amount of fines.	Amount realized.	Amount paid by way of compensation.	Fifteen days.		Six months.		Two years.		Seven years.		Above seven years.		Ten stripes and under.	Twenty stripes and under.	Thirty stripes and under.
										Rigorous.	Simple.	Rigorous.	Simple.	Rigorous.	Simple.	Rigorous.	Simple.	Rigorous.	Simple.			
							Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.													
Bench Magistrates	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	.....	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Unpaid Magistrates	404	13	..	..	..	..	1,636 8 0	1,558 13 9	153 2 0	18	..	20	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Local and Subordinate paid Magistrates.	1,754	556	10	61	..	..	25,145 2 6	21,373 7 0	1,691 12 3	164	54	734	42	28	..	..	..	..	..	20	21	1
Full-power Magistrates (exercising jurisdiction throughout the districts).	2,090	794	86	22	1	..	46,352 8 6	39,419 12 6	4,504 9 6	345	25	1,193	16	450	2	1	..	..	..	52	117	58
Chief Magistrates of districts	385	64	18	5	1	1	9,825 10 0	8,434 2 3	798 8 0	85	5	193	5	58	..	16	..	..	..	8	5	15
Total Magistracy	4,633	1,427	114	33	2	1	82,959 13 0	70,786 3 6	7,147 15 9	612	84	2,140	64	536	2	17	..	..	..	80	143	74
Sessions Courts	1	10	5	1	1	..	1,874 13 0	632 4 7	151 12 11	..	1	4	2	16	..	25	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total	4,634	1,437	119	34	3	1	84,834 10 0	71,418 8 1	7,299 12 8	612	85	2,144	66	552	2	42	..	..	..	80	143	74

5. *(Criminal).—Statement showing the result of Appeal and Revision in Criminal Cases of the Province of Assam in the year* 1876.

CLASS OF TRIBUNALS.	Number of appellants or persons applying for revision under Section 296, Code of Criminal Procedure, Act X. of 1872.	NUMBER OF PERSONS.							
		Appeals or applications rejected.	Sentences confirmed.	Sentences modified.	Sentences reversed.	Proceedings quashed.	Further inquiry or evidence ordered.	Cases referred for revision to High Court.	Pending.
Chief Magistrates	394	47	193	42	88	.....	10	1	13
Sessions Courts	624	206	220	67	97	2	.....	5	27
Total	1,018	253	413	109	185	2	10	6	40
High Court	147	14	57	8	51	.....	.....	.....	17
GRAND TOTAL	1,165	267	470	117	236	2	10	6	57

B.—Judicial Statement.

6. (*Civil*).—*Statement showing the number and description of Civil Suits instituted in the Civil Courts of the Province of Assam in the year* 1876.

Class of Tribunal.	Suits for money, distinguishing suits up to Rs. 500, cognizable by Small Cause Courts, from other cases.																	
	On written obligation.		On unwritten obligation.		On account stated.		Money had and received.		Goods sold.		Breach of contract not mentioned above.		Rent not falling under the Rent Law.		Moveable property or value thereof.		Damages.	
	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.
Village Courts	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Small Cause Courts	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Unpaid Local Tribunals	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Paid Sub-Divisional Tribunals (Munsiffs' Courts).	7,900	89	1,431	7	1,179	16	412	3	277	20	610	8	91	15	1,736	9	896	5
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts (Subordinate Judges' Courts).	255	36	53	4	68	5	27	....	13	2	7	2	9	....	106	6	33	2
Chief Courts of Districts (District Judges' Courts).	1	7	....	1	....	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Revenue Courts	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Total	8,156	132	1,484	12	1,247	24	439	3	290	22	617	10	100	15	1,842	15	929	8

15,345

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.—(*Continued*).

6. (*Civil*).—*Statement showing the number and description of Civil Suits instituted in the Civil Courts of the Province of Assam in the year* 1876.

CLASS OF TRIBUNALS.	SUITS UNDER THE RENT LAW.								OTHER SUITS.											
	Arrears of rent with or without ejectment or cancellement of lease.	Enhancement or abatement of rent.	Relating to distraint.	Damages for extortion, or withholding receipts, or on account of illegal restraint or other causes.	For pottahs or kabuliyats.	For ejectment or recovery of possession.	For recovery of money or accounts from agents.	All other suits under the Rent Law not included above.	Suits for immoveable property.	Suits for specific performance of contract.	Suits to declare and establish rights to real property, including pre-emption, foreclosures, &c.	Suits to declare and establish personal rights.	Suits for an account.	Suits relating to religious endowments.	Suits to set aside judgments, contracts, or obligations, on the ground of fraud.	Suits for dissolution of marriage.	Suits for enforcement of matrimonial rights.	Suits for partition.	Suits relating to shipping.	Suits relating to religion and caste.
Village Courts	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..
Small Cause Courts.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..
Unpaid Local Tribunals	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..
Paid Sub-Divisional Tribunals (Munsiffs' Courts).	890	11	1	....	3	18	4	10	2,607	31	172	55	15	6	13	20	186	3	..	..
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts (Sub-Judges' Courts).	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	30	1	2	..	2	..	....	2	..	2	..	..
Chief Courts of Districts (District Judges' Courts).	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..
Revenue Courts	269	1	....	19	38	14	7	2	..	..	....	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	1,159	12	1	19	41	32	11	12	2,637	32	174	55	17	6	13	22	186	5	..	..
	1,287								3,147											

[23] B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

7. (*Civil*).—*Statement showing value of Suits disposed of in the Civil and Revenue Courts of the Province of Assam in the year* 1876.

VALUE OF SUITS.	NUMBER OF SUITS DISPOSED OF IN DIFFERENT COURTS.					Total Number of Suits disposed of in different Courts	Total value of Suits.
	Village Courts.	Small Cause Courts.	Munsiffs, Deputy-Collectors, and other Sub-Divisional Courts.	District Courts.	Superior Courts.		
In Civil Courts.							Rs.
Not exceeding Rs. 5 ...	...	.....	1,392	39	...	1,431	5,010
Ditto " 20 ...	...	.....	5,190	278	...	5,468	17,222
Ditto " 100 ...	...	.....	9,661	342	...	10,003	4,83,463
Ditto " 500 ...	...	.....	2,623	2	...	2,625	4,99,063
Ditto " 1,000 ...	...	.....	196	4	...	200	1,38,382
Ditto " 5,000 ...	...	.....	6	88	...	94	1,88,960
Ditto " 10,000 ...	...	.....	.....	9	...	9	68,924
Ditto " 1,00,000 ...	...	.....	.....	6	...	6	1,01,078
Exceeding " 1,00,000 ...	...	.....	.....	3	...	3	7,14,167
Total in Civil Courts ...	...	.....	19,068	771	...	19,839*	22,70,269
In Revenue Courts.							
Not exceeding Rs. 5 ...	...	.....	98	7	...	105	345
Ditto " 20 ...	...	.....	115	30	...	145	1,403
Ditto " 100 ...	...	.....	59	22	...	81	3,121
Ditto " 500 ...	...	.....	7	5	...	12	2,443
Ditto " 1,000 ...	...	.....	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Ditto " 5,000 ...	...	.....	2	.....	...	2	3,318
Ditto " 10,000 ...	...	.....	1	.....	...	1	7,294
Ditto " 1,00,000 ...	...	.....	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Exceeding " 1,00,000 ...	...	.....	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Total in Revenue Courts ...	...	.....	282	64	...	346†	17,924
Grand Total ...	...	.....	19,350	835	...	20,185	22,88,193

* Six cases having no money value have not been included in this Statement.
† Two cases as noted above.

8. *(Civil).—Statement showing the general result of the Trial of Civil Suits in the Courts of Original Jurisdiction in the Province of Assam in the year 1876.*

CLASS OF COURTS.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
													CONTESTED.						AVERAGE DURATION OF SUITS.		
	Suits remaining from last year.	Instituted in 1876.	Received by transfer.	Total for disposal.	Transferred to other Courts.	Plaint rejected or returned.	Dismissed for default.	Withdrawn with leave.	Compromised.	Decreed on confession.	Decreed *ex parte*.	Dismissed *ex parte*.	Judgment for plaintiff in whole or part.	Judgment for defendant.	Total disposed of.	Pending.	Over two months.	Over four months.	Contested.	Uncontested.	Referred to arbitration.
Civil Courts.																					
Village Courts	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small Cause Courts	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..
Unpaid local tribunals	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paid sub-divisional tribunals (Munsiffs' Courts).	2,325	18,749	1,647	22,721	1,493	154	2,303	436	1,815	2,566	4,641	851	3,978	2,329	19,073	2,155	199	262	..	..	85
District Courts other than Chief Courts of districts (Subordinate Judges' Courts).	141	667	61	869	8	14	163	26	49	56	202	42	114	90	756	105	19	45	..	..	..
Chief Courts of districts (District Judges' Courts).	3	13	7	23	2	..	..	..	..	3	6	..	5	2	16	5	..	3	..	..	..
Total.....	2,469	19,429	1,715	23,613	1,503	168	2,466	462	1,864	2,625	4,849	893	4,097	2,421	19,845	2,265	218	310	..	..	85
Revenue Courts.																					
Unpaid local tribunals	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paid sub-divisional tribunals	21	284	74	379	73	3	66	5	25	40	38	..	62	45	284	22	3	..	..	..	..
Courts of Collectors	..	66	..	66	..	..	7	3	10	12	5	1	15	11	64	2	..	..	..	..	..
Total.....	21	350	74	445	73	3	73	8	35	52	43	1	77	56	348	24	3	..	..	..	..
GRAD TOTAL.....	2,490	19,779	1,789	24,058	1,576	171	2,539	470	1,899	2,677	4,892	894	4,174	2,477	20,193	2,289	221	310	..	..	85

9. (*Civil*).—*Statement showing the Business of the Civil and Revenue Appellate Courts of the Province of Assam in the year* 1876.

CLASS OF COURTS.	Remaining.	Instituted.	Received by transfer.	Total.	Transferred.	Dismissed for default, or under Sections 5 and 6 of Act XXIII. of 1861.	HEARD *ex parte*. Confirmed.	HEARD *ex parte*. Modified.	HEARD *ex parte*. Reversed.	CONTESTED. Confirmed.	CONTESTED. Modified.	CONTESTED. Reversed.	CONTESTED. Remanded.	Total disposed of.	Pending.	Over four months.	Objections under Section 348, Act VIII. of 1869.	Objections allowed.
Civil Appellate Court other than Chief Courts of District (Subordinate Judges' Courts).	153	561	710	1,424	89	36	58	...	8	726	91	203	29	1,151	184	58	46	13
Collectors' Appellate Court ...	2	26	...	28	...	3	2	...	...	14	2	...	5	26	2	...	..	...
Chief Appellate Court of Districts (District Judges' Courts). — Civil Appeals.	286	893	41	1,220	651	9	16	2	6	222	13	50	17	335	234	30	39	2
Chief Appellate Court of Districts (District Judges' Courts). — Revenue Appeals.	86	58	...	144	...	1	8	1	...	91	17	9	4	131	13	...	2	...
Chief Court of Province (High Court). — Regular Appeals from District Courts.	6	8	...	14	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	2	1	7	7	...	...	...
Chief Court of Province (High Court). — Special Appeals	54	118	...	172	...	3	...	...	...	74	...	11	11	99	73	...	...	..
TOTAL ...	587	1,664	751	3,002	740	53	84	3	14	1,130	123	275	67	1,749	513	88	87	15

10. (*Civil*).—*Statement showing the Execution of the Decrees of the Civil and Revenue Courts of the Province of Assam in the year* 1876.

Class of Courts.	Applications to execute decrees.				Decrees completely executed.	Decrees partially executed.	Pending at the end of 1876.	Decrees executed by possession being given.	Nature and number of coercive processes issued.					
									Imprisonment of person.	Moveable property.		Immoveable property.		Orders under Section 243, Code of Civil Procedure.
	Pending.	Filed.	Received by transfer.	Total.						Attached.	Sold.	Attached.	Sold.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Village Courts	...	.....	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Cause Courts	...	.....	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unpaid Local Tribunals	...	.....	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paid Sub-Divisional Tribunals (Munsiffs' Courts).	1,612	10,033	626	12,271	2,860	7,697	1,714	922	173	1,042	402	2,135	829	...
District Courts, other than Chief Courts of Districts (Subordinate Judges' Courts).	74	416	15	505	100	329	76	4	2	28	10	253	30	1
Chief Courts of Districts (District Judges' Courts).	20	29	101	150	21	123	6	...	1	6	3	7	2	...
Revenue Courts	29	112	...	141	53	79	9	...	7	34	20	14	10	...
Total	1,735	10,590	742	13,067	3,034	8,228	1,805	926	183	1,110	435	2,409	871	1

11. (*Civil*).—*Statement showing use of Jurors and Assessors in the Civil and Criminal Courts of the Province of Assam in the year* 1876.

Class of Courts in which Jurors or Assessors are employed, distinguishing Criminal from Civil Courts.	Established or average number of Jury or Assessors in each case and prescribed qualifications.	Number of cases tried by Jury.	Number of cases with Assessors.	JURY TRIALS.		ASSESSORS' TRIALS.		Notes showing in what classes of cases juries and assessors had been principally employed.	Remarks.
				Cases in which the Judge approved of the verdict.	Cases in which the Judge did not approve of the verdict.	Number of cases in which Judges agreed with Assessors.	Number of cases in which Judges differed from Assessors.		
Courts of Session..	Five Jurors and two Assessors. Qualifications as described in Sections 404, 405, and 406, Code of Criminal Procedure.	15	75	13	2	71*	4	All offences including abetments and attempts falling under Chapters VIII., XI., XVI., XVII., and XVIII. of the Indian Penal Code are tried by Jury; the rest are tried with the aid of Assessors.	* Four of these cases were decided without the opinion of Assessors.

B.—Registration Statement.

12.—*Comparative Statement of Deeds Registered in the Registration Districts of the Province of Assam for the years* 1875-76 *and* 1876-77.

District.	Number of Registration Offices.		REGISTRATIONS AFFECTING IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY—BOOK I.															
			COMPULSORY.															
			Instruments of gift (Section 17, Clause 1).		Instruments of sale of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards.		Instruments of mortgage of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards.		Other instruments registered under Section 17, Clauses 2 and 3.		Perpetual leases (Section 17, Clause 4).		All leases (other than perpetual leases) which have been compulsorily registered under Section 17, Clause 4.		Total of compulsory registrations.		Ordinary fees paid for the same.	
1	2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
																	Rs. As.	Rs. As.
Office of Officer in charge of Registration Department, Assam.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	.....	.....
Cachar	2	2	4	4	431	503	234	188	....	....	2	2	14	41	685	738	636 8	711 0
Sylhet	4	4	40	39	2,554	2,273	499	508	16	8	46	21	359	538	3,514	3,387	3,828 0	3,458 8
Goalpara	2	2	3	1	31	45	61	68	....	....	...	....	196	413	291	527	200 0	384 0
Kamrúp	2	2	2	9	84	108	22	37	....	2	20	36	23	17	161	239	192 8	242 0
Darrang	2	2	5	2	40	16	4	3	....	2	....	....	1	....	50	23	77 0	72 0
Nowgong	1	1	5	5	21	31	2	2	5	....	....	....	....	2	33	40	107 0	46 8
Sibsagar	3	3	....	1	19	20	4	11	....	....	....	....	5	3	28	25	76 0	98 0
Lakhimpur	3	3	....	....	29	13	4	9	....	....	....	....	....	....	33	22	75 8	45 0
Total	19	19	59	61	3,209	3,009	830	826	21	12	78	59	598	1,014	4,795	4,381	5,192 8	5,057 0

B.—Registration Statement, 12.—(*Continued.*)

District.	Registrations affecting immoveable property—Book I.—(*Continued.*) Optional. Instruments of sale of the value of less than Rs. 100.		Instruments of mortgage of the value of less than Rs. 100.		Other instruments registered under Section 18, Clauses 1 and 2.		Leases for one year or less (Section 18, Clause 3) and leases exempted under the proviso in Section 17.		Awards (Section 18, Clause 4).		Miscellaneous registrations other than certified copies of decrees and orders of Court.		Certified copies of decrees and orders of Court.		Total of optional registrations relating to immoveable property.		Ordinary fees paid for the same.	
	11		12		13		14		15		16		17		18		19	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
																	Rs. As.	Rs. As.
Office of Officer in charge of Registration Department, Assam.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	.....	.....
Cachar	717	849	91	166	....	....	8	6	....	....	10	12	...	....	826	1,033	454 0	576 0
Sylhet	919	853	56	71	....	1	76	64	....	....	4	38	....	1	1,055	1,033	538 0	730 8
Goálpára	41	54	11	18	....	....	12	20	....	....	13	8	....	....	77	100	79 0	56 0
Kamrup	112	146	4	6	....	....	13	....	....	2	18	14	1	....	148	168	117 0	123 0
Darrang	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	19	2	....	....	20	3	30 0	3 0
Nowgong	16	34	1	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	....	....	17	39	8 8	38 0
Sibsagar	13	29	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	13	30	7 0	15 0
Lakhimpur	6	5	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7	5	3 8	2 8
Total....	1,825	1,976	164	264	....	1	109	90	....	2	64	77	1	1	2,163	2,411	1,237 0	1,514 0

B.—Registration Statement, 12.—(*Continued.*)

District.	Total value of immoveable property transferred.		REGISTRATIONS AFFECTING MOVEABLE PROPERTY—BOOK IV.										Number of sealed covers deposited—Book V.		Number of wills registered—Book III.		Number of written authorities to adopt, other than those conferred by wills—Book III.	
			Instruments of sale of moveable property		Obligations for the payment of money (Section 18, Clause 7).		All other documents registered under Section 18, Clause 7.		Total of registrations in Book IV.		Ordinary fees paid for the same.							
	20		21		22		23		24		25		26		27		28	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As.									Rs. As.	Rs. As.						
Office of Officer in charge of Registration Department, Assam.	.....	.....	....	....	...	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Cachar	2,15,933 0 0	30,337 0	11	27	36	33	104	73	151	133	142 0	126 8	1	....	6	3	....	....
Sylhet	14,77,986 1 6	12,68,924 0	16	34	66	58	251	191	333	283	395 8	320 8	....	....	13	9	....	1
Goálpára	67,204 1 10½	73,822 0	3	6	35	47	64	56	102	109	121 8	117 0	....	....	1	1	....	1
Kámrúp	1,63,358 0 0	2,09,430 0	4	7	69	123	27	24	100	154	89 0	145 8	1	....	29	26	....	....
Darrang	86,677 0 0	42,869 0	1	....	3	....	30	26	34	26	30 0	42 0	....	....	11	13	....	....
Nowgong	1,73,144 0 0	64,432 0	19	13	1	4	191	183	211	200	365 0	321 0	1	....	15	12	....	....
Sibságar	62,169 0 0	1,11,543 0	2	7	64	140	282	430	348	577	397 0	625 8	....	....	6	8	....	2
Lakhimpur	80,951 0 1	62,659 0	1	1	5	2	32	44	38	47	54 0	58 8	....	....	....	7	....	....
Total.....	23,26,522 3 5½	21,37,016 0	57	95	279	407	981	1,027	1,317	1,529	1,594 0	1,756 8	3	....	81	79	....	4

B.—Registration Statement, 12.—(*Continued.*)

District.	Number of registrations under Section 24.		Number of registrations under Section 34.		Number of refusals to register.		Number of powers of attorney attested.		Number of searches or applications for copies.		Receipts. Total ordinary fees, including the entries in columns 10, 19, and 25, and the total fees paid for registration under columns 27 and 28.		Receipts. Total extraordinary fees and fines.		Total Expenditure.	
	29		30		31		32		33		34		35		36	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
											Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Office of Officer in Charge of Registration Department, Assam	....	...	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	916 5 10	796 4 3
Cachar	....	2	2	4	29	22	74	76	38	54	1,256 8	1,425 8	368 0 3	543 1 9	1,745 9 11	1,785 5 4
Sylhet	24	38	49	72	68	147	255	232	261	276	4,813 8	4,549 8	4,830 11 6	4,862 8 6	6,746 4 8	5,942 11 6
Goálpara	....	....	....	....	4	1	21	32	11	12	404 8	565 0	313 11 0	323 0 0	1,224 3 0	1,160 2 1
Kámrúp	1	....	....	....	3	....	26	30	25	26	514 8	614 8	238 14 0	314 7 0	1,125 9 0	1,026 14 8
Darrang	....	....	....	....	1	....	12	20	3	1	181 0	169 0	79 0 6	123 3 0	494 6 6	337 11 5
Nowgong	4	7	....	....	6	....	11	18	27	25	540 8	453 8	130 12 0	177 13 6	528 9 0	502 8 0
Sibságar	1	....	....	....	3	8	26	22	7	6	504 0	778 8	79 6 0	86 12 0	816 10 11	765 4 1
Lakhimpur	2	....	....	....	2	2	25	31	2	2	133 0	134 0	52 6 0	82 0 0	155 9 0	113 13 6
Total....	32	47	51	76	116	180	450	461	374	402	8,347 8	8,689 8	6,092 13 3	6,512 13 9	13,753 3 10	12,480 10 10

Showing the distribution of the Prisoners of all classes, confined in the Jails and Lock-ups of the Province of Assam during the year 1876.

1	2	3	4			5			6			7			8			9			10		
Stations.	Place of confinement.	Classes of prisoners.	Remained at the commencement of the year 1876.			Received during the year 1876.			Total.			Discharged from all causes.*			Remaining at end of the year.			Daily average number of each class.			Total daily average of whole jail.		
			M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Goálpára ..	Goálpára	Convicts	102	5	107	216	5	221	318	10	328	276	7	283	42	3	45	88·08	4·24	92·32	93·10	4·28	97·38
		Under-trial	11	1	12	160	4	164	171	5	176	166	4	170	5	1	6	4·17	·04	4·21			
		Civil.....	1	..	1	17	..	17	18	..	18	17	..	17	1	..	1	·85	..	·85			
	Dhubri	Convicts	31	..	31	106	..	106	137	..	137	123	..	123	14	..	14	17·05	..	17·05	19·88	..	19·88
		Under-trial	1	..	1	103	1	104	104	1	105	103	1	104	1	..	1	2·56	..	2·56			
		Civil.....	..	..	..	5	..	5	5	..	5	5	..	5	..	..	..	·27	..	·27			
Kamrúp ..	Gauháti	Convicts	144	5	149	176	24	200	320	29	349	164	23	187	156	6	162	173·26	7·93	181·19	177·74	8·01	185·75
		Under-trial	2	..	2	130	7	137	132	7	139	129	7	136	3	..	3	3·39	·08	3·47			
		Civil.....	..	..	..	12	..	12	12	..	12	12	..	12	..	..	..	1·09	..	1·09			
	Barpetá.....	Convicts	15	1	16	50	4	54	65	5	70	55	2	57	10	3	13	7·26	·76	8·02	9·83	·80	10·63
		Under-trial	1	1	2	39	4	43	40	5	45	36	5	41	4	..	4	1·71	·04	1·75			
		Civil.....	..	..	..	11	..	11	11	..	11	11	..	11	..	..	..	·86	..	·86			
Darrang ..	Tezpur	Convicts	157	4	161	215	14	229	372	18	390	234	15	249	138	3	141	151·18	5·23	156·41	155·98	5·49	161·47
		Under-trial	5	..	5	186	16	202	191	16	207	187	15	202	4	1	5	4·47	·26	4·73			
		Civil.....	..	..	..	3	..	3	3	..	3	3	..	3	..	..	..	·33	..	·33			
	Mangaldai ..	Convicts	9	..	9	172	3	175	181	3	184	173	3	176	8	..	8	10·17	·11	10·28	11·63	·14	11·77
		Under-trial	1	..	1	73	2	75	74	2	76	73	2	75	1	..	1	·96	·03	·99			
		Civil.....	..	..	..	4	..	4	4	..	4	4	..	4	..	..	..	·50	..	·50			
Nowgong..	Nowgong	Convicts	56	..	56	202	3	205	258	3	261	170	2	172	88	1	89	81·15	·12	81·27	84·54	·12	48 66
		Under-trial	5	..	5	125	2	127	130	2	132	129	2	131	1	..	1	3·07	..	3·07			
		Civil.....	..	..	..	4	..	4	4	..	4	3	..	3	1	..	1	0·32	..	·32			

Sibságar	Sibságar	Convicts	105	2	107	218	19	237	323	21	344	242	21	263	81	..	81	95·22	·76	95·98	100·82	·86	101·68
		Under-trial	1	..	1	175	13	188	176	13	189	173	13	186	3	..	3	5·37	·10	5·47			
		Civil	..	..	..	3	..	3	3	..	3	2	..	2	1	..	1	·23	..	·23			
	Jorhát	Convicts	..	..	..	64	2	66	64	2	66	64	2	66	..	..	..	2·27	..	2·27	2·53	..	2·53
		Under-trial	..	..	..	33	..	33	33	..	33	33	..	33	..	..	..	·26	..	·26			
		Civil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....			
	Golághát	Convicts	4	..	4	129	8	137	133	8	141	129	8	137	4	..	4	5·80	·37	6·17	6·82	·49	7·31
		Under-trial	..	..	..	75	4	79	75	4	79	74	4	78	1	..	1	1·02	·12	1·14			
		Civil	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	....	..	..			
Lakhimpur	Dibrugarh	Convicts	57	1	58	149	23	172	206	24	230	156	9	165	50	15	65	55·47	6·73	62·20	57·57	6·84	64·41
		Under-trial	1	..	1	102	12	114	103	12	115	101	12	113	2	..	2	1·73	·11	1·84			
		Civil	..	..	..	6	..	6	6	..	6	6	..	6	..	..	..	·37	..	·37			
	North Lakhimpur.	Convicts	..	..	..	47	..	47	47	..	47	42	..	42	5	..	5	3·87	..	3·87	4·46	..	4·46
		Under-trial	2	..	2	43	..	43	45	..	45	44	..	44	1	..	1	·59	..	·59			
		Civil	..	..	..	2	..	2	2	..	2	2	..	2	..	..	..	....	..	..			
Sylhet	Sylhet	Convicts	467	14	481	1,617	19	1,636	2,084	33	2,117	1,622	22	1,644	462	11	473	492·23	9·92	502·15	536·71	10·64	547·35
		Under-trial	43	2	45	917	32	949	960	34	994	904	34	938	56	..	56	41·20	·72	41·92			
		Civil	3	..	3	28	..	28	31	..	31	28	..	28	3	..	3	3·28	..	3·28			
Cachar	Silchar	Convicts	89	6	95	517	61	578	606	67	673	472	58	530	134	9	143	116·15	10·74	126·89	131·37	12·85	144·22
		Under-trial	31	10	41	394	46	440	425	56	481	413	55	468	12	1	13	12·70	2·00	14·70			
		Civil	1	..	1	38	1	39	39	1	40	37	1	38	2	..	2	2·52	·11	2·63			
	Háilákándi	Convicts	1	..	1	176	9	185	177	9	186	175	9	184	2	..	2	3·06	·03	3·09	7·69	·26	7·95
		Under-trial	12	..	12	131	9	140	143	9	152	141	8	149	2	1	3	4·36	·23	4·59			
		Civil	1	..	1	12	..	12	13	..	13	13	..	13	..	..	..	·27	..	·27			
Khasi Hills	Shillong	Convicts	34	2	36	64	4	68	98	6	104	58	4	62	40	2	42	32·28	1·73	34·01	34·35	1·73	36·08
		Under-trial	2	..	2	25	..	25	27	..	27	23	..	23	4	..	4	2·07	..	2·07			
		Civil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....			
	Jowai	Convicts	..	..	..	25	1	26	25	1	26	25	1	26	..	..	..	·06	·03	·09	·14	·06	·20
		Under-trial	..	..	..	30	1	31	30	1	31	30	1	31	..	..	..	·08	·03	·11			
		Civil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....			
	Total	Convicts	1,271	40	1,311	4,143	199	4,342	5,414	239	5,653	4,180	186	4,366	1,234	53	1,287	1,334·56	48·70	1,383·26	1,435·16	52·57	1,487·73
		Under-trial	118	14	132	2,741	153	2,894	2,869	167	3,026	2,759	163	2,922	100	4	104	89·71	3·76	93·47			
		Civil	6	..	6	146	1	147	152	1	153	144	1	145	8	..	8	10·89	·11	11·00			
		Grand Total	1,395	54	1,449	7,030	353	7,383	8,425	407	8,832	7,083	350	7,433	1,342	57	1,399	1,435·16	52·57	1,487·73	1,435·16	52·57	1,487·73

* Including transfers.

C.—PRISONS.—(JUDICIAL.)

1. *Showing the number and disposal of the Convicts in the Jails and Lock-ups of the Assam Province, during the year* 1876.

1	2	3		4		5		6				7			8				9					
								Received from other jails.							Transferred to other jails.				Released during the year.					
								A		B					A		B		A		B		C	
Serial No.	Jails and Lock-ups.	Remained on the 31st December, 1875.		Imprisoned during the year 1876.		Total.		To undergo sentence.		In transit, for transportation, or to other jails.		Total population.			To undergo sentence.		For transportation beyond seas, &c.		On appeal.		On expiry of sentence.		On payment of fine or on bail	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	Goalpara	102	5	216	5	318	10	4	..	1	..	323	10	333	40	..	3	..	6	..	199	7	15	..
2	Dhubri	31	..	106	..	137	..	..	..	..	..	137	..	137	46	..	..	..	2	..	63	..	10	..
3	Gauhati	144	5	176	24	320	29	36	..	2	..	358	29	387	3	..	2	..	16	..	148	15	21	8
4	Barpetá	15	1	50	4	65	5	2	..	..	..	67	5	72	24	..	..	..	1	..	26	1	6	1
5	Tezpur	157	4	215	14	372	18	24	..	2	..	398	18	416	8	..	..	..	4	..	233	14	2	..
6	Mangaldai	9	..	172	3	181	3	2	..	..	..	183	3	186	93	2	..	..	..	..	68	1	13	..
7	Nowgong	56	..	202	3	258	3	21	..	..	..	279	3	282	2	..	..	..	11	..	160	2	13	..
8	Sibsagar	105	2	218	19	323	21	13	..	..	..	336	21	357	26	20	2	..	7	..	209	1	6	..
9	Jorhát	..	..	64	2	64	2	..	..	..	..	64	2	66	26	2	..	..	1	..	21	..	15	..
10	Golaghát	4	..	129	8	133	8	..	..	..	..	133	8	141	42	4	..	..	..	..	75	4	11	..
11	Dibrugarh	57	1	149	23	206	24	2	19	..	..	208	43	251	..	..	..	..	3	1	150	25	2	..
12	North Lakhimpur	..	..	47	..	47	..	..	..	..	..	47	..	47	14	..	..	..	..	..	26	..	2	..
13	Sylhet	467	14	1,617	19	2,084	33	48	..	..	..	2,132	33	2,165	171	..	..	..	113	2	1,018	17	272	1
14	Silchar	89	6	517	61	606	67	20	..	..	..	626	67	693	34	..	..	..	11	..	369	57	68	..
15	Háilákandi	1	..	176	9	177	9	..	..	..	..	177	9	186	93	6	..	..	..	..	60	3	22	..
16	Shillong	34	2	64	4	98	6	1	..	..	..	99	6	105	3	..	2	..	3	1	47	3	..	..
17	Jowai	..	..	25	1	25	1	..	..	..	..	25	1	26	23	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
	Total	1,271	40	4,143	199	5,414	239	173	19	5	..	5,592	258	5,850	648	35	9	..	178	4	2,874	150	479	10

C.—Prisons, 1.—(*Continued.*)

Serial No.	Jails and Lock-ups.	9—(*Continued.*) Released during the year. D. By order of Government. (a) On account of sickness.		(b) On other grounds.		10 Transported beyond seas.		11 Transferred to lunatic asylum.		12 Escaped.		13 Executed.		14 Died.		15 Remaining on the 31st December, 1876.			16 Daily average number.		
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1	Goálpára	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	1	..	1	..	16	..	42	3	45	88·08	4·24	92·32
2	Dhubri	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	14	..	14	17·05	.....	17·05
3	Gauhátí	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	11	..	156	6	162	173·26	7·93	181·19
4	Barpetá	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	3	13	7·26	·76	8·02
5	Tezpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	1	138	3	141	151·18	5·23	156·41
6	Mangaldai	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	8	..	8	10·17	·11	10·28
7	Nowgong	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	88	1	89	81·15	·12	81·27
8	Sibságar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	5	..	81	..	81	95·22	·76	95·98
9	Jorhat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2·27	.....	2·27
10	Golaghát	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	..	4	5·80	·37	6·17
11	Dibrugarh	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	50	15	65	55·47	6·73	62·20
12	North Lakhimpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	5	3·87	.....	3·87
13	Sylhet	..	..	67	1	7	..	1	..	3	..	1	..	17	1	462	11	473	492·23	9·92	502·15
14	Silchar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	8	..	134	9	143	116·15	10·74	126·89
15	Háilakandi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	3·06	·03	3·09
16	Shillong	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	40	2	42	32·28	1·73	34·01
17	Jowai	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	·06	·03	·09
	Total	2	1	70	1	7	..	1	..	7	..	5	1	78	3	1,234	53	1,287	1,334·56	48·70	1,383·26

2. *Showing the Religion, Age, and previous Occupation of the Convicts in the Jails of the Assam Province during the year* 1876.

1	2	3														4								5									6		
		Religion.														Age.								Previous occupation.											
		A						B		C		D		E		A		B		C		D		Males.						Females.					
		Christian.																																	
		a		b		c																		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I			
		Europeans.		Eurasians.		Natives.		Mahomedans.		Hindus.		Budhists and Jains.		All other classes.		Under sixteen.		Sixteen to forty.		Forty to sixty.		Above sixty.		Of independent property.	Agriculturists.	Non-agriculturists.	Domestic servants.	Government servants.	No occupation.	Married.	Unmarried.	Prostitutes.	Total.		
Serial No.	Jails.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.										M.	F.	Total.
1	Goálpara..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	3	165	3	..	..	93	4	2	..	268	7	47	3	1	..	..	173	86	37	22	..	9	..	1	318	10	328
2	Gauhati ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36	3	218	6	..	..	66	20	..	..	280	25	37	4	3	..	9	249	24	18	14	6	27	..	2	320	29	349
3	Tezpur .	..	..	..	..	..	.	36	2	262	15	..	..	74	1	1	..	343	16	25	2	3	..	..	180	136	9	36	11	6	11	1	372	18	390
4	Nowgong..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	..	197	3	..	..	42	..	5	..	221	3	31	..	1	..	..	179	21	52	5	1	3	..	..	258	3	261
5	Sibságar ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	67	3	203	18	..	..	53	..	4	..	264	21	55	..	..	.	..	183	127	1	12	..	21	..	..	323	21	344
6	Dibrugarh	1	..	..	..	..	..	31	6	162	18	..	..	12	..	..	..	185	20	18	4	3	..	..	48	121	22	11	4	24	..	..	206	24	230
7	Sylhet	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,472	20	463	6	..	..	149	7	2	1	1,704	23	330	8	48	1	98	1,785	97	28	56	21	31	..	2	2,084	33	2,117
8	Silchar....	..	..	..	..	..	..	248	6	358	61	..	..	..	..	6	2	552	60	39	3	9	2	19	290	255	29	13	..	62	..	5	606	67	673
9	Shillong ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	6	..	26	..	..	..	65	6	1	..	92	6	5	.	..	..	6	27	28	17	19	1	4	2	..	98	6	10
	Total..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1,975	43	2,054	130	..	..	554	38	21	3	3,809	181	587	24	68	3	132	3,114	895	213	187	44	187	13	11	4,586	211	4,796

3. *Showing the Convicts in the Jails of the Province of Assam for the year* 1876, *according to the nature and length of sentence.*

1	2	3																				4				5		
		Cases according to the length of sentence.																				Nature of imprisonment.						
		A		B		C		D		E		F		G		H				I		A		B				
		Not exceeding one month.		Above one and not exceeding six months.		Above six months, and not exceeding one year.		Above one year, and not exceeding three years.		Above three years, and not exceeding five years.		Above five and not exceeding ten years.		Exceeding ten years.		Sentenced to transportation beyond seas.				Sentenced to death.		Simple imprisonment.		Rigorous imprisonment.*		Total.		
																For life.		For a term.										
Serial No.	Jails.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F	Total.
1	Goálpára	69	1	84	2	75	2	58	5	16	...	12	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	5	...	313	10	318	10	328
2	Gauháti.....	28	4	137	21	39	...	91	4	17	...	6	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	20	13	300	16	320	29	349
3	Tezpur	14	5	161	10	39	2	94	1	25	...	38	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	1	364	17	372	18	390
4	Nowgong ...	96	3	84	...	34	...	38	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	258	3	258	3	261
5	Sibságar	73	6	148	11	58	3	36	1	2	...	3	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	..	3	2	320	19	323	21	344
6	Dibrugarh ...	80	13	77	10	19	...	22	1	3	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	7	204	17	206	24	230
7	Sylhet	389	9	1,415	16	117	1	100	4	33	1	10	2	...	...	4	...	15	...	1	...	108	6	1,976	27	2,084	33	2,117
8	Silchar	266	53	189	6	89	1	54	5	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	23	3	583	64	606	67	673
9	Shillong.....	21	1	26	3	17	...	17	2	11	...	4	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	96	6	98	6	104
	Total.....	1.036	95	2,321	79	487	9	510	23	114	2	79	2	2	...	13	...	17	...	6	1	171	32	4,414	179	4,585	211	4,796

* Including prisoners sentenced to transportation or to death.

C.—PRISONS.—(JUDICIAL.)

4. *Showing the Convicts in the Jails of Assam during the year 1876 who had been previously convicted.*

1	2	3			4									5			6			
Serial No.	Jails.	Total.			Number previously convicted.									Ratio of column 4D to column 3.			Juvenile prisoners under sixteen years of age. Section 318, Criminal Procedure Code.			
					A		B.		C		D						A		B.	
					Once.		Twice.		More than twice.		Total.						Number imprisoned.		Number previously convicted.	
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	Goálpára	318	10	328	12	1	7	...	5	...	24	1	25	7·54	10·00	7·62	2	...	1	...
2	Gauháti	320	29	349	23	2	...	...	2	...	25	2	27	7·81	6·89	7·73	...	...	...	...
3	Tezpur	372	18	390	39	1	13	1	4	...	56	2	58	15·05	11·11	14·87	...	...	...	..
4	Nowgong	258	3	261	16	...	6	...	2	...	24	...	24	9·30	...	9·19	5	...	...	..
5	Sibságar	323	21	344	12	...	7	...	6	...	25	...	25	7·73	...	7·26	5	...	...	...
6	Dibrugarh	206	24	230	17	1	1	...	3	...	21	1	22	10·19	4·16	9·56	...	...	...	...
7	Sylhet	2,084	33	2,117	80	...	35	...	25	...	140	...	140	6·71	...	6·62	2	1	...	...
8	Silchar	606	67	673	11	...	5	...	2	...	18	...	18	2·97	...	2·67	6	2	...	...
9	Shillong	98	6	104	4	...	1	...	...	...	5	...	5	5·10	...	4·80	1	...	...	...
	Total	4,585	211	4,796	214	5	75	1	49	...	338	6	344	7·37	2·84	7·17	21	3	1	...

6. *Showing the offences committed by the Convicts, and the Punishments inflicted on them, in the Jails of Assam during the year* 1876.

1	2	3		4		5						6											7
						Breaches of Jail rules.						Punishments inflicted.											
												A		B.—By Jail officers.								C	
														a		b		c		d	e		
Serial No.	Jails.	Average number of convicts.		Criminal offences.		Smoking, or having possession of forbidden articles.		Offences relating to work.		Other offences against prison discipline.		By criminal courts.		Solitary confinement.		Reduced diet.		Solitary confinement with reduced diet.		Corporal punishment.	Other punishments.		Total punishments.	Ratio of column 6C to column 3.
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	M.	F.		
1	Goálpára	88·08	4·24	...	...	5	...	29	2	12	1	...	...	2	...	17	2	...	...	12	15	1	49	53·07
2	Gauháti	173·26	7·93	...	...	9	1	10	...	26	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	9	34	...	46	25·38
3	Tezpur	151·18	5·23	...	...	20	...	4	...	11	...	...	...	6	...	1	...	...	...	8	25	...	40	25·57
4	Nowgong	81·15	·12	1	1	41	...	31	...	33	...	1	1	3	...	29	...	...	...	27	46	...	107	131·65
5	Sibságar	95·22	·76	...	...	3	...	12	1	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	12	24	...	37	38·54
6	Dibrugarh	55·47	6·73	2	...	1	...	8	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	2	...	15	24·11
7	Sylhet	492·23	9·92	...	...	41	...	56	...	66	1	...	...	5	...	16	...	4	...	64	74	1	164	32·65
8	Silchar	116·15	10·74	...	...	6	...	139	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	119	...	156	122·94
9	Shillong	32·28	1·73	...	...	1	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	2	...	2	5·88
	Total	1,285·02	47·40	3	1	127	1	289	3	187	2	3	1	16	...	65	3	4	1	180	341	2	616	46·23

7. *Showing the state of education of the Convicts imprisoned in, and released from, the Jails of Assam for the year* 1876.

1	2	3		4						5		6		7		8						9					
Serial No.	Jails.	Number imprisoned during the year.		Of those in column 3, there were						Daily average number of convicts.		Daily average number under instruction.		Number released during the year.		Of those in column 7, there were						Number released during the year after more than six months in jail.					
				Unable to read or write.		Able to read or write a little.		Able to read or write well.								Unable to read and write.		Able to read and write a little.		Able to read and write well.		Unable to read and write.		Able to read and write a little.		Able to read and write well.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	Goálpára ...	216	5	196	5	13	...	7	...	88·08	4·24	.....	...	281	7	259	7	14	...	8	...	56	3	6	...	..	...
2	Gauháti	176	24	164	24	9	...	3	...	173·26	7·93	13·75	...	109	18	90	18	12	...	7	...	100	...	5	6	4	...
3	Tezpur	215	14	191	14	2	...	22	...	151·18	5·23	.....	...	239	14	213	14	8	...	18	...	91	1	1	...	8	...
4	Nowgong ...	202	3	170	3	15	...	17	...	81·15	·12	7·55	...	191	2	160	2	16	...	15	...	9	...	2	...	2	...
5	Sibságar ...	218	19	189	19	27	...	2	...	95·22	·76	.....	...	214	1	191	1	21	...	2	...	39	...	5	...	2	...
6	Dibrugarh ...	149	23	135	23	13	...	1	...	55·47	6·73	.....	...	155	9	150	9	5	...	...	...	16	1	...	...	...	...
7	Sylhet	1,617	19	1,575	19	32	...	10	...	492·23	9·92	·52	...	1,670	22	1,582	22	74	...	14	...	205	2	12	...	2	...
8	Silchar	517	61	516	61	1	...	...	...	116·15	10·74	19·76	...	492	58	478	58	8	...	6	...	28	2	8	...	6	...
9	Shillong	64	4	64	4	...	...	...	...	32·28	1·73	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total...	3,374	172	3,200	172	112	...	62	...	1,285·02	47·40	41·58	...	3,351	131	3,123	131	158	...	70	...	544	9	39	6	24	...

10. *Showing the expenditure in guarding and maintaining the Prisoners in the Jails and Lock-ups of Assam, during the year 1876, excluding the cost of building new jails, of additions, alterations, or repairs.*

1	2	3				4		5		6		7			8		9*		10	11
		Average number of prisoners.				Rations.		Establishments.		Police guard.		Hospital charges.			Clothing.		Contingencies.			
						A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	C	A	B	A	B		
Serial No.	Jails and Lock-ups.	Convicts.	Under-trial.	Civil.	Total.	Total cost.	Cost per head of average strength, excluding civil prisoners.	Total cost.	Cost per head of average strength.	Total cost.	Cost per head of average strength.	Total cost.	Cost per head of average strength.	Cost per head of average number sick.	Total cost.	Cost per head of average strength.	Total cost.	Cost per head of average strength, including civil prisoners.	Grand total expended.	Total cost per head of average strength.
						Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.
1	Goálpara	92·32	4·21	·85	97·38	2,789	28 14 3	2,084	21 6 4	1,987	20 6 5	258	2 10 4	51 9 7	241	2 7 6	415	4 4 2	7,774	79 13 1
2	Dhubri.....	17·05	2·56	·27	19·88	784	39 15 8	384	19 5 0	500	25 2 4	8	0 6 5	13 5 4	..	....	114	5 11 9	1,790	90 0 7
3	Gauhati.....	181·19	3·47	1·09	185·75	5,885	31 13 10	2,981	16 0 9	2,406	12 15 2	232	1 3 11	48 10 2	402	2 2 7	742	3 15 10	12,648	68 1 5
4	Barpeta	8·02	1·75	·86	10·63	339	34 11 2	804	75 10 1	432	40 10 2	23	2 2 7	27 0 11	1	0 1 6	117	11 0 1	1,716	161 6 10
5	Tezpur	156·41	4·73	·33	161·47	4,793	29 11 10	2,636	16 5 2	2,178	13 7 9	605	3 12 0	41 3 10	165	1 0 4	214	1 5 3	10,591	65 9 5
6	Mangaldai	10·28	·99	·50	11·77	320	28 6 3	240	20 6 3	456	38 11 10	15	1 4 4	17 13 8	1	0 1 4	220	18 11 0	1,252	106 5 11
7	Nowgong	81·27	3·07	·32	84·66	3,090	36 8 0	2,302	27 3 0	1,585	18 11 6	77	0 14 6	37 8 11	16	0 3 0	206	2 6 11	7,276	85 15 1
8	Sibságar.....	95·98	5·47	·23	101 68	3,286	32 6 2	3,106	30 8 8	2,365	23 4 1	97	0 15 3	21 1 4	210	2 1 0	495	4 13 10	9,559	94 0 2
9	Jorhát	2·27	·26	..	2·53	62	24 8 1	..	.....	..	.....	..	....	.....	..	....	29	11 7 4	91	35 15 5
10	Golághát.....	6·17	1·14	..	7·31	412	56 5 9	..	.....	546	74 11 0	15	2 0 9	28 13 6	..	....	69	9 7 0	1,042	142 8 8
11	Dibrugarh	62·20	1·84	·37	64·41	3,151	49 3 3	1,565	24 4 9	1,827	28 5 10	106	1 10 3	22 2 9	32	0 8 0	312	4 13 6	6,993	108 9 1
12	North Lakhimpur	3·87	·59	..	4·46	286	64 2 0	482	108 1 1	523	117 4 2	..	....	.....	..	....	55	12 5 3	1,346	20 14 4
13	Sylhet.....	502·15	41·92	3·28	547·35	16,320	30 0 0	3,293	6 0 3	6,379	11 10 5	313	0 9 1	19 7 9	1,362	2 7 9	1,615	2 15 2	29,282	53 7 11
14	Silchar	126·89	14·70	2·63	144·22	5,828	41 2 6	3,981	27 9 7	2,568	17 13 0	213	1 7 7	21 12 9	34	0 10 5	834	5 12 6	13,518	93 11 8
15	HailáKándi.....	3·09	4·59	·27	7·95	343	44 10 7	317	39 12 11	240	30 3 0	24	3 0 3	52 2 9	4	0 8 0	36	4 8 5	964	121 4 1
16	Shillong	34·01	2·07	..	36·08	2,637	73 1 4	1,754	48 9 9	1,489	41 4 3	274	7 9 6	220 15 5	..	....	333	9 3 8	6,487	179 12 8
17	Jowai	·09	·11	..	·20	28	140 0 0	..	.....	25	125 0 0	..	....	.....	..	....	9	45 0 0	62	310 0 0
	Total....	1,383·26	93·47	11·00	1,487·73	50,353	34 1 6	25,929	17 6 10	25,506	17 2 3	2,260	1 8 3	34 0 6	2,528	1 11 2	5,815	3 14 6	1,12,391	*75 8 8

* Not including supervision.

12. *Showing the employment of the Convicts in the Jails of Assam during the year* 1876.

1	2	3		4		5		6						7		
Serial No.	Jails.	Average number sentenced to labour.		Average number not sentenced to labour.		Average number of effectives.*		Employment.						Ratio per cent. on column 5 of those employed—		
								A	B	C	D	E	F			
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Prison officers.	Prison servants.	Building and repairing jails.	On jail garden.	On manufactures.	Extra-mural.	As prison officers.	As prison servants.	On manufactures.
1	Goálpára	85·16	4·24	2·92	...	77·83	3·97	6·30	17·60	15·50	4·95	21·72	15·73	7·70	21·51	26·55
2	Gauháti.....	172·47	7·53	·78	·40	163·59	6·85	5·73	21·18	25·73	12·35	105·45	...	3·36	12·42	61·86
3	Tezpur	146·43	4·86	·50	·30	132·09	4·02	4·57	25·08	38·63	10·54	36 15	21·14	3·35	18·42	26·55
4	Nowgong	81·50	·12	·10	...	79·24	·08	2·78	10·27	5·71	5·41	48·95	6·20	3·50	12·94	61·71
5	Sibságar	109·63	·91	1·29	·01	88·76	·75	4·65	15·09	10·21	5·34	24·59	29·63	5·19	16·85	27·47
6	Dibrugarh.....	55·25	6·06	·22	·67	42·23	4·87	·92	8·41	7·20	2·72	25·30	2·55	1·95	17·85	53·71
7	Sylhet	483·63	9·66	8·60	·26	387·53	7·98	3·81	53·56	153·03	7·21	177·90	...	·96	13·54	44·97
8	Silchar	115·99	10·48	1·47	·46	109·32	9·46	·87	19·07	21·88	10·82	66·14	...	·73	16·05	55·68
9	Shillong	31·83	1·73	·44	...	29·43	1·67	...	5·78	2·37	3·32	.....	19·63	.....	18·58	.....
	Total ...	1,281·89	45·59	16·32	2·10	1,110·02	39·65	29·63	176·04	280·26	62·66	506·20	94·88	2·57	15·31	44·03

* Excluding the infirm, sick, or convalescent.

C.—Prisons.—(Financial.)

14. *Showing the expenditure on the construction of new Jails, and on additions and repairs, with the gross and net cost of the Prisoners in the Jails and Lock-ups of Assam, during the year* 1876.

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		On jail buildings.									
Serial No.	Jails and Lock-ups.	A By Jail Department.	B By Public Works Department.	On maintaining and guarding the prisoners.	Total expenditure, columns 3 and 4.	Expenditure on manufactures (column 4D of Statement XIII.)	Gross expenditure, columns 5 and 6.	Cash receipts from manufactures (column 3A of Statement XIII.)	Net cost, or column 7 minus column 8.	Total expenditure (column 5) per head of average strength.	Net cost per head of average strength.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. As.	Rs. As.
1	Goálpára	41	1,378	7,774	9,193	1,453	10,646	2,216	8,430	94 6	86 9
2	Dhubri	200	.....	1,790	1,990	.....	1,990	.....	1,990	.....	.....
3	Gauháti	500	583	12,648	13,731	1,739	15,470	4,785	10,685	73 14	57 8
4	Barpetá	127	.....	1,716	1,843	346	2,189	484	1,705	.....	.....
5	Tezpur	28	6,921	10,591	17,540	3,521	21,061	4,283	16,778	108 10	103 14
6	Mangaldai	10	.....	1,252	1,262	151	1,413	266	1,147	.....	.....
7	Nowgong	189	765	7,276	8,230	3,452	11,682	3,222	8,460	97 3	99 14
8	Sibságar	321	3,079	9,559	12,959	2,396	15,355	2,637	12,718	127 7	125 1
9	Jorhát	157	.....	91	248	.....	248	.....	248	.....	.....
10	Golághát	221	.....	1,042	1,263	.....	1,263	.....	1,263	.....	.....
11	Dibrugarh	228	2,950	6,993	10,171	3,581	13,752	3,492	10,260	157 14	159 4
12	North Lakhimpur	5	.....	1,346	1,351	120	1,471	1	1,470	.....	.....
13	Sylhet	314	19,203	29,282	48,799	7,078	55,877	7,994	47,883	89 2	87 7
14	Silchar	502	.....	13,518	14,020	2,723	16,743	4,238	12,505	97 3	86 11
15	Háilákándi	5	.....	964	969	.....	969	.....	969	.....	.....
16	Shillong	275	.....	6,487	6,762	42	6,804	71	6,733	187 6	186 9
17	Jowai	8	.....	62	70	.....	70	.....	70	.....	.....
	Total	3,131	34,879	1,12,391	1,50,401	26,602	1,77,003	33,689	1,43,314	101 1	96 5
	Add cost of Inspector-General's office, travelling on inspection, &c.				980						
	Grand Total				1,51,381						

C.—PRISONS.—(VITAL.)

15. *Showing the Sickness and Mortality among the Convicts in the Jails of Assam during the year* 1876.

1	2	3			4			5			6			7			8		
Serial No.	Jails.	Capacity of the jail barracks, at 36 superficial feet per head.			Average daily strength.			Maximum population on any one day.			Number admitted into hospital.			Daily average number of sick.			Number of deaths in and out of hospital.		
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total
1	Goálpára	140	7	147	88·08	4·24	92·32	112	6	118	133	...	133	5·00	...	5·00	16	...	16
2	Gauháti	181	15	196	173·26	7·93	181·19	180	13	193	134	6	140	4·12	·44	4·56	11	...	11
3	Tezpur	169	23	192	151·18	5·23	156·41	181	10	191	669	28	697	13 54	·80	14·34	13	1	14
4	Nowgong	120	26	146	81·15	·12	81·27	113	..	113	61	...	61	2·04	...	2·04	1	...	1
5	Sibságar	63	10	73	95·22	·76	95·98	132	4	136	127	...	127	4·33	...	4·33	5	...	5
6	Dibrugarh	122	10	132	55·47	6·73	62·20	71	8	79	263	5	268	4·53	·15	4·68	3	1	4
7	Sylhet	380	12	392	492·23	9·92	502·15	587	12	599	599	1	600	15·59	·03	15·62	17	1	18
8	Silchar	128	15	143	116·15	10·74	126·89	135	22	157	173	38	211	4·38	·64	5·02	8	..	8
9	Shillong	45	4	49	32·28	1·73	34·01	46	3	49	10	...	10	1·17	...	1·17	1	...	1
	Total.....	1,348	122	1,470	1,285·02	47·40	1,332·42	1,557	78	1,635	2,169	78	2.247	54·70	2·06	56·76	75	3	78

C.—Prisons, 15.—(*Continued.*)

Serial No.	Jails.	9														
		Ratio per cent. of average strength.														
		A			B			C			D			E		
		Of admissions into hospital.			Of daily average number of sick.			Of deaths from cholera.			Of deaths from all other causes, both in and out of hospital.			Of deaths from all causes, both in and out of hospital.		
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1	Goálpára	150·99	.....	144·06	5·67	.....	5·41	...	.....	.....	18·16	.....	17·33	18·16	.....	17·33
2	Gauháti	77·34	75·66	77·26	2·37	5·54	2·51	...	.....	.....	6·34	.....	6·07	6·34	.....	6·07
3	Tezpur	442·51	535·37	445·62	8·95	15·29	9·16	...	.....	.....	8·59	19·12	8·95	8·59	19·12	8·95
4	Nowgong.....	75·16	.....	75·05	2·51	.....	2·51	...	.....	.....	1·23	.....	1·23	1·23	.....	1·23
5	Sibságar	133·37	.....	132·31	4·54	.....	4·51	...	.....	.....	5·25	.....	5·20	5·25	.....	5·20
6	Dibrugarh	474·11	74·29	430·86	8·16	2·22	7·52	...	14·85	1·60	5·40	.....	4·82	5·40	14·85	6·42
7	Sylhet	121·69	10·08	119·48	3·16	·30	3·11	...	.....	.....	3·45	10·08	3·58	3·45	10·08	3·58
8	Silchar	148·94	353·81	166·28	3·77	5·95	3·95	...	.....	.....	6·88	.....	6·30	6·88	.....	6·30
9	Shillong	30·97	.....	29·40	3·62	.....	3·44	...	.....	.....	3·09	.....	2 94	3·09	.....	2·94
	Total	168·79	164·55	168·64	4·25	4·34	4·25	...	2·10	·07	5·83	4·20	5·77	5·83	6·32	5·85

20. *Showing particulars regarding Civil Prisoners in the Jails and Lock-ups of Assam during the year* 1876.

1	2	3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12		13		14		15								16	
																										Hospitals.								Cost.	
																										A		B		C		D		A	B
Serial No.	Jails and Lock-ups.	Number remained at the close of previous year.		Number received during the year.		Total population.		Average daily number.		Released during the year.		Escaped.		Transferred.		Died.		Remaining on 31st December, 1876.		Capacity of barracks, at 36 superficial feet per head.		Average number of prisoners above capacity.		Average number of prisoners below capacity.		Admissions.		Daily average sick.		Deaths.		Ratio of deaths per cent. of average strength.		Total charges.	Average cost per prisoner.
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1	Goálpára	1	.	17	..	18	..	·85	..	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	7	..	....	..	6·15	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	40 0 0	46 10 2
2	Dhubri	..	..	5	..	5	..	·27	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....
3	Gauháti	..	..	12	..	12	..	1·09	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	..	....	..	23 91	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	.	....	....
4	Barpetá	..	..	11	..	11	..	·86	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....
5	Tezpur	..	..	3	..	3	..	·33	..	3	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....
6	Mangaldai	..	..	4	..	4	..	·50	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	....	..	....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....
7	Nowgong	..	..	4	..	4	..	·32	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	19	..	....	..	18·68	....	1	..	·01	..	..	..	....	..	....	....
8	Sibsagar	..	..	3	..	3	..	·23	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	13	..	....	..	12·77	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....
9	Jorhát	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....	..	..	..	.	..	..	....	..	....	....
10	Golághat	..	..	1	..	1	..	....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....
11	Dibrugarh	..	..	6	..	6	..	·37	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	....	..	9·63	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....
12	North Lakhimpur	..	..	2	..	2	..	....	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....
13	Sylhet	3	..	28	..	31	..	3·28	..	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	....	..	....	....	1	..	·01	..	..		....	..	152 0 0	50 10 8
14	Silchar	1	..	38	1	39	1	2·52	·11	37	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	5	..	....	..	2·48	....	1	..	·01	..	..		....	..	95 0 0	0 1 6
15	Hailakandi	1	..	12	..	13	..	·27	..	12	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....	1	..	·05	..	..		....	..	....	....
16	Shillong	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....
17	Jowai	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	....
	Total	6	..	146	1	152	1	10·89	·11	144	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	79	..	..	..	68·11	....	4	..	·08	..	..	..	....	..	287 0 0	26 5 8

21. *Showing particulars regarding Prisoners under trial in the Jails and Lock-ups of Assam during the year* 1876.

1	2	3		4		5			6			7			8		
Serial No.	Jails and Lock-ups.	Number remained at close of previous year.		Number received.		Total population.			Average daily number.			Released.			Convicted and sentenced.		
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1	Goálpára	11	1	160	4	171	5	176	4·17	·04	4·21	81	1	82	85	3	88
2	Dhubri	1	...	103	1	104	1	105	2·56	...	2·56	61	1	62	39	...	39
3	Gauháti	2	...	130	7	132	7	139	3·39	·08	3·47	75	4	79	49	2	51
4	Barpetá	1	1	39	4	40	5	45	1·71	·04	1·75	12	1	13	21	4	25
5	Tezpur	5	..	186	16	191	16	207	4·47	·26	4·73	97	6	103	89	9	98
6	Mangaldai.....	1	...	73	2	74	2	76	·96	·03	·99	18	2	20	52	...	52
7	Nowgong	5	...	125	2	130	2	132	3·07	...	3·07	52	2	54	76	...	76
8	Sibságar	1	...	175	13	176	13	189	5·37	·10	5·47	82	4	86	82	9	91
9	Jorhát	...	...	33	...	33	...	33	·26	...	·26	17	...	17	12	...	12
10	Golághát	...	...	75	4	75	4	79	1·02	·12	1·14	39	...	39	26	4	30
11	Dibrugarh	1	...	102	12	103	12	115	1·73	·11	1·84	43	2	45	57	10	67
12	North Lakhimpur	2	...	43	...	45	...	45	·59	...	·59	23	...	23	21	...	21
13	Sylhet	43	2	917	32	960	34	994	41·20	·72	41·92	539	24	563	352	10	362
14	Silchar	31	10	394	46	425	56	481	12·70	2·00	14·70	189	32	221	214	22	236
15	Háilakándi	12	...	131	9	143	9	152	4·36	·23	4·59	55	3	58	77	4	81
16	Shillong	2	...	25	...	27	...	27	2·07	...	2·07	10	...	10	13	...	13
17	Jowai	...	...	30	1	30	1	31	·08	·03	·11	30	1	31	...	...	...
	Total.....	118	14	2,741	153	2,859	167	3,026	89·71	3·76	93·47	1,423	83	1,506	1,265	77	1,342

Serial No.	Jails and Lock-ups.	9 Transferred. M.	9 Transferred. F.	10 Escaped. M.	10 Escaped. F.	11 Deaths. M.	11 Deaths. F.	12 Remaining on 31st December, 1876. M.	12 Remaining on 31st December, 1876. F.	12 Remaining on 31st December, 1876. Total.	13 Cost. A. Rations.	13 Cost. B. Guard and establishment.	13 Cost. C. Other charges.	13 Cost. D. Total.	13 Cost. E. Annual cost per head of average strength.	14 Hospital. A. Admissions.	14 Hospital. B. Daily average sick.	14 Hospital. C. Deaths.	14 Hospital. D. Ratio of deaths per cent. of average strength.
1	Goálpára	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	6	...	...	...	...	.....	..	...	...	.....
2	Dhubri	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	.....	1	·03	...	.....
3	Gauháti	4	1	...	...	1	...	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	.....	3	·21	1	28·81
4	Barpetá	3	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4	...	...	...	..	.....	3	·03	...	.....
5	Tezpur	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	1	5	...	...	...	...	.....	14	·33	1	21·14
6	Mangaldai	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	.....
7	Nowgong	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	..	.....	...	...	...	.....
8	Sibságar	...	...	8	...	1	...	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	.....	2	·27	1	18·28
9	Jorhát	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	4	·09	...	.....
10	Golághát	9	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	.....
11	Dibrugarh	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	.....	2	·10	...	.....
12	North Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	.....
13	Sylhet	12	...	...	...	1	..	56	...	56	...	...	...	...	.....	19	·43	1	2·38
14	Silchar	10	...	...	...	...	1	12	1	13	...	...	...	...	.....	49	4·74	1	6·80
15	Háilákándi	8	1	...	...	1	...	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	.....	18	·39	1	21·78
16	Shillong	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	.....	1	·07	...	.....
17	Jowai	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	.....
	Total	58	2	8	...	5	1	100	4	104	...	...	...	...	.....	116	6·69	6	6·41

D.—Police.

[41] 1. *General Statement of Crime, showing the result of Police operations in the detection and prosecution of crime and recovery of stolen property during the year* 1876.

Part I.—*Cognizable Crime.*

[41] D.—Po

1. *General Statement of Crime, showing the result of Police operations in the*

PART I.—

Serial Number	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.										
			Average number reported during five preceding years.	Reported to have been committed during the year.	Number of cases not inquired into under Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code.	Reported to have been committed in previous years, and brought under inquiry during the year.	Investigated by Police. By Police, *suo motu*.	By order of the Magistrate on complaint, or of his own motion in which no previous information was given to the Police.	By order of the Magistrate after the Police has refused to inquire.	Number of cases in columns 6 to 8 in which conviction was obtained.	Number of cases declared by Magistrate to be false and never to have occurred.	Pending at end of last year.	Received by transfer.
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	5	6	7	8	9	9a	10	10a
1	115	Abetment of offence not committed, &c.	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	117	Abetting commission of offence by public, &c.	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	118, 119	Concealing design to commit offence, &c.	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Total	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	CLASS I.—*Offences against the State, public tranquillity, safety, and justice.*												
2	131 to 136, 138 ..	Offences relating to Army and Navy.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..
3	231 to 263, 467, and 471.	Offences relating to coin, stamps, and Government notes.	22·32	39	2	1	33	1	..	22	3	..	..
4	212, 216	Harbouring an offender	2·48	5	..	..	4	..	..	1	..	..	..
5	224 to 226	Other offences against public justice.	55·8	66	1	5	52	4	1	33	4	7	..
6	143 to 153, 157, 158	Rioting or unlawful assembly...	318·96	367	8	39	274	45	4	166	53	74	..
7	140, 170, 171	Personating public servant or soldier.	2·04	4	..	..	2	..	..	3	..	1	..
		Total	402·60	481	11	45	365	50	5	225	60	82	..
	CLASS II.—*Serious offences against the person.*												
8	302, 303, 396	Murder .... by thugs	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9		Murder .... by dacoits	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10		Murder .... by robbers	....	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11		Murder .... by poison	....	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
12		Other murders	26·5	31	..	3	29	4	..	6	3	12	..
13	307	Attempts at murder.....	1·	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
14	304, 308.....	Culpable homicide.....	23·92	28	..	4	30	1	..	4	5	1	..
15	376	Rape	54·76	65	3	2	46	9	..	2	22	..	..
16	377	Unnatural offences	17·	27	1	.	28	..	..	5	12	.	..
17	317, 318.....	Exposure of infants or concealment of birth.	4·76	12	..	1	8	3	..	3	..	2	..
18	305, 306, 309.....	Attempt at, and abetment of suicide.	24·28	27	1	..	26	..	..	14	2	1	..
19	329, 331, 333.....	Grievous hurt for the purpose of extorting property or confession or deterring public servant.	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	325, 326, 335.....	Grievous hurt	76·12	72	2	2	70	3	..	25	10	3	..
21	328	Administering stupefying drugs to cause hurt.	....	2	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	..

LICE.

detection and prosecution of crime and recovery of stolen property during the year 1876.

Cognizable Crime.

Persons.																Property.				
Number arrested or appeared on other process during the year.		Total.	Died, escaped, or transferred before trial.	Released without being brought before a Magistrate.	Number who actually appeared before a Magistrate.	Acquitted or discharged after appearance before a Magistrate.		Finally convicted (including persons ordered to give security for good conduct).		Otherwise disposed of, e.g., died, transferred, &c. after commencement of trial.	Number pending at end of year.				Number of cases in which property was stolen.	Number of cases in which property was recovered.	Amount of property stolen.	Amount of property recovered.	Cases decided.
											Before being put on trial.									
By Police.	By order of Magistrate.					By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.		In custody of Police.	On bail.	Under trial before Magistrate.	Committed to Sessions.						
11	12	12*a*	13	14	15	16	17	*a* 18	*b*	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
																	Rs.	Rs.	
....	....	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
....	....	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
....	....	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
....	....	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
....	....	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
32	3	35	..	2	33	5	1	25	..	.	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	3[illegible]
3	3	6	..	..	6	4	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..		4
68	42	117	1	3	113	41	..	71	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	63
1,022	100	1,196	..	21	1,175	286	..	827	..	..	..	..	62	..	..	..	..	..	827
3	2	6	..	..	6	....	..	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
1,128	150	1,360	1	26	1,333	336	1	930	..	1	..	..	65	..	..	..	..	..	4[illegible]0
....	....	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
....	....	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
....	....	..	.	..	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
....	....	..	.	..	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
1	....	1	.	..	1	1	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
38	4	54	1	1	52	11	11	....	12	3	..	..	6	9	..	..	..	..	2
2	....	2	..	..	2	2	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
39	1	41	3	1	37	10	15	3	1	..	..	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	60
11	10	21	..	1	20	16	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	12
11	1	12	..	..	12	6	..	4	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	10
9	....	11	..	..	11	5	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	[illegible]
21	....	22	1	1	20	5	..	14	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
....	....	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
45	4	52	..	1	51	10	1	25	11	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	60
2	....	2	..	..	2	....	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	[illegible]

[41] D.—POLICE.

Serial Number.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases. Average number reported during five preceding years.	Reported to have been committed during the year.	Number of cases not inquired into under Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code.	Reported to have been committed in previous years, and brought under inquiry during the year.	Investigated by Police. By Police, *suo motu*.	By order of the Magistrate on complaint, or of his own motion in which no previous information was given to the Police.	By order of the Magistrate after the Police has refused to inquire.	Number of cases in columns 6 to 8 in which conviction was obtained.	Number of cases declared by Magistrate to be false and never to have occurred.	Pending at end of last year.	Received by transfer.
1	8	8	3a	4	4a	5	6	7	8	9	9a	10	10a
	CLASS II.—*Serious offences against the person.*—(Continued.)												
22	327, 330, 332	Hurt for purpose of extorting property of confession or deterring public servant	·61	3	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	1
23	324	Hurt by dangerous weapon ..	107·48	145	11	11	131	5	3	47	24	2	..
24	363 to 369	Kidnapping or abduction	49·92	64	3	5	43	10	..	6	20	9	..
25	346 to 348	Wrongful confinement and restraint in secret or for purpose of extortion.	24·6	53	..	2	30	17	..	3	14	..	..
26	372, 373	Selling, letting, or unlawfully obtaining a minor for prostitution.	3·12	6	..	..	3	..	..	1	1	5	..
27	371	Habitually dealing in slaves ..	·4	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
28	352, 354, 356, 357.....	Criminal force to public servant or woman, or in attempt to commit theft or wrongfully confine.	111·28	125	1	8	103	10	..	25	24	8	..
29	304A, 338	Rash or negligent act causing death or grievous hurt.	6·68	18	..	1	17	2	..	5	3	..	2
		Total	532·43	682	22	39	572	64	3	149	141	43	3
	CLASS III.—*Serious offences against person and property, or against property only.*												
30	395, 397, 398	Dacoity	8·68	16	..	1	14	3	..	2	7	3	..
31	399, 402	Preparation and assembly for dacoity.	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
32	394, 397, 398	Robbery with hurt: by poisonous or stupefying drugs.	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Robbery with hurt: by other means	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
33	392, 393	Robbery: in dwelling-house	·2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Robbery: on the highway between sunset and sunrise	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Robbery: other robberies	64·72	87	9	4	54	27	3	5	50	9	·4
34	270, 281, 282, 430 to 433, 435 to 440.	Serious mischief and cognate offences.	125·32	232	3	11	166	28	1	22	67	4	..
34a	428, 429	Mischief	11·8	33	..	3	46	10	..	12	23	..	..

1.—(*Continued.*)

Persons.																Property.			
Number arrested or appeared on other process during the year.			Died, escaped, or transferred before trial.	Released without being brought before a Magistrate.	Number who actually appeared before a Magistrate.	Acquitted or discharged after appearance before a Magistrate.		Finally convicted (including persons ordered to give security for good conduct).		Otherwise disposed of, *e. g.*, died, transferred, &c., after commencement of trial.	Number pending at end of year.				Number of cases in which property was stolen.	Number of cases in which property was recovered.	Amount of property stolen.	Amount of property recovered.	Cases decided.
											Before being put on trial.								
By Police.	By order of Magistrate.	Total.				By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.		In custody of Police.	On bail.	Under trial before Magistrate.	Committed to Sessions.					
11	12	12*a*	18	14	15	16	17	18 *a*	18 *b*	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
																	Rs.	Rs.	
4	1	6	..	2	4	....	..	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
120	12	134	..	10	124	33	..	87	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	120
35	12	56	..	8	48	19	2	19	4	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	20
22	9	31	..	3	28	18	..	7	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	40
5	1	11	..	2	9	7	..	2	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	2
..	....	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	1
137	26	171	..	1	170	88	..	65	..	1	..	..	16	..	4	1	159	2	80
16	....	18	..	..	18	9	1	6	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	16
518	81	645	5	31	609	240	33	242	31	10	..	..	40	13	4	1	159	..	485
24	..	27	..	2	25	6	5	..	6	..	.	..	7	1	8	4	990	270	8
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	
1	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	1	..	45	..	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..
26	8	43	..	5	38	23	3	8	3	..	..	..	1	..	14	3	766	105	28
80	28	112	..	18	94	27	2	52	10	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	120
34	4	38	..	5	33	17	..	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26

[41] D.—POLICE,

Serial Number.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases. Average number reported during five preceding years.	Reported to have been committed during the year.	Number of cases not inquired into under Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code.	Reported to have been committed in previous years and brought under inquiry during the year.	Investigated by Police. By Police, *suo motu*.	By order of the Magistrate on complaint, or of his own motion in which no previous information was given to the Police.	By order of the Magistrate after the Police has refused to inquire.	Number of cases in columns 6 to 8 in which conviction was obtained.	Number of cases declared by Magistrate to be false and never to have occurred.	Pending at end of last year.	Received by transfer.
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	5	6	7	8	9	9a	10	10a
	CLASS III.—*Serious offences against person and property, or against property only.*—(Continued.)												
35	454, 455, 457 to 460	Lurking house trespass, or house-breaking with intent to commit an offence, or having made preparation for hurt.	579·16	889	71	58	627	7	6	69	180	7	..
36	449 to 452	House-trespass with view to commit an offence or having made preparation for hurt.	*31·8	25	2	4	23	1	..	8	7	..	..
37	412, 413	Receiving stolen property by dacoity or habitually.	1·81	14	..	4	16	1	..	3	2	3	..
		Total	833·49	1,347	85	85	1,147	77	10	121	336	26	..
	CLASS IV.—*Minor offences against the person.*												
37a	.....	Hurt (simple)	165·28	404	23	10	305	10	..	122	44	2	..
38	334	Hurt on grave or sudden provocation.	3·48	5	..	..	5	..	..	5	..	..	..
38a	323	Voluntarily causing hurt	16·6	68	2	1	28	6	..	13	11	..	..
39	341 to 344	Wrongful restraint and confinement.	769·6	883	31	39	552	102	4	91	274	36	..
40	336, 337	Rash act, causing hurt or endangering life.	1·	2	..	..	2	..	..	1	1	..	..
41	374	Compulsory labour	6·83	17	..	..	3	1	..	1	2	..	..
		Total	962·79	1,329	56	50	895	119	4	233	332	38	..
	CLASS V.—*Minor offences against property.*												
42	453, 456	Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking.	71·36	71	3	1	60	4	..	17	13	6	..
43	379 to 382	Theft .. of cattle	246·8	344	17	15	306	34	..	88	115	7	..
		Theft .. ordinary	3,126·12	4,205	354	123	2,883	341	32	705	1,237	79	..
44	406 to 408	Criminal breach of trust.....	307·76	380	3	11	205	56	..	36	79	10	1
45	411, 414	Receiving stolen property	170·06	252	..	26	258	8	..	221	18	11	.
46	447, 448	Criminal or house-trespass ..	664·2	855	23	23	402	47	1	156	130	13	..
47	461, 462	Breaking closed receptacle ..	·2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Mischief by killing or maiming animals, &c.	9·6	31	..	1	25	3	..	1	9	..	..
		Total	4,596·10	6,139	400	197	4,140	493	33	1,224	1,601	129	1

* One person transferred to
† One ditto
‡ One died before trial.
§ One transferred to No. 45
‖ One escaped before arrest.
¶ Two persons transferred

1.—(*Continued.*)

Persons.																Property.				
Number arrested or appeared on other process during the year.			Died, escaped, or transferred before trial.	Released without being brought before a Magistrate.	Number who actually appeared before a Magistrate.	Acquitted or discharged after appearance before a Magistrate.		Finally convicted (including persons ordered to give security for good conduct.)		Otherwise disposed of, *e.g.*, died, transferred, &c., after commencement of trial.	Number pending at end of year.					Number of cases in which property was stolen.	Number of cases in which property was recovered.	Amount of property stolen.	Amount of property recovered.	Cases decided.
											Before being put on trial.									
By Police.	By order of Magistrate.	Total.				By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.		In custody of Police.	On bail.	Under trial before Magistrate.	Committed to Sessions.						
11	12	12*a*	13	14	15	16	17	*a* 18	*b*	19	20	21	22	23		24	25	26	27	28
																		Rs.	Rs.	
172	14	193	2	30	161	67	..	92	..	..	..	..	1	..		528	89	33,652	5,102	604*
24	4	28	..	5	23	13	..	9	..	..	..	..	1	..		..	..	..	..	25
25	1	29	..	..	29	9	10	..	8	..	..	..	1	1		..	..	..	..	16
386	59	471	2	65	404	163	20	177	27	..	..	..	13	3		551	96	35,453	5,477	837
216	114	332	..	4	328	95	..	227	..	..	..	..	6	..		..	..	..	..	253
6	2	8	..	..	8	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	..	..	..	5
24	26	50	..	1	49	15	..	33	..	..	..	1	..	..		..	..	..	..	42
417	85	538	..	29	509†	264	..	223	2	1	..	..	18	..		..	..	..	..	500
1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	..	..	..	2
1	3	4	..	1	3	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	..	..	..	3
665	230	933	..	35	898	375	..	494	2	1	.	1	24	..		..	..	..	..	805
43	3	52	..	6	46	27	..	19	..	..	..	..	..	..		7	5	589	364	53
222	20	249	.	15	234	85	..	141	..	1		..	7	..		230	158	8,024	6,533	253
1,461	440	1,980	6‡	163	1,812§	681	2	1,069	..	..	.	.	58	..		1,730	830	51,018	21,480	1,750
78	77	161	1‖	6	155	92	..	55	1	..	..	..	6	1		72	27	9,832	6,220	80
447	14	475	..	..	475¶	132	5	328	1	..	..	.	11	..		252	231	17,986	13,808	258
362	285	660		6	654	244	..	395	..	1	..	..	16	..		..	..	..	..	449
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	..	..	..	..
9	3	12	.	..	12	9	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	..	..	..	8
2,617	842	3,589	7	196	3,388	1,270	7	2,007	2	2	..	..	99	1		291	1,251	87,399	47,905	2,851

No. 45 of this statement.
No. 16 of Statement A, Part II.

of this statement.

from Nos 35 and 43 of this statement.

[41] D.—POLICE.

Serial Number.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases. Average number reported during five preceding years.	Reported to have been committed during the year.	Number of cases not inquired into under Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code.	Reported to have been committed in previous years, and brought under inquiry during the year.	Investigated by Police. By Police, *suo motu*.	By order of the Magistrate on complaint, or of his own motion in which no previous information was given to the Police.	By order of the Magistrate after the Police has refused to inquire.	Number of cases in columns 6 to 8 in which conviction was obtained.	Number of cases declared by Magistrate to be false and never to have occurred.	Pending at end of last year.	Received by transfer.
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	5	6	7	8	9	9a	10	10a
	CLASS VI.—*Other offences not specified above.*												
48	311, 400, 401	Belonging to gangs of thugs, dacoits, robbers, and thieves.	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
49	Chapter XIX, C. P. C.	Vagrancy and bad character ..	160·96	159	..	14	22	150	..	93	1	12	..
50	295 to 297	Offences against religion	2·03	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
51	Cognizable offences under the Acts specified.	Gambling Act	....	4	..	..	3	1	..	2	..	..	..
52		Excise Laws	105·12	176	..	8	168	5	..	124	12	7	..
53		Railway Laws	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
54		Salt and Custom Laws	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55		Stage Carriage Act	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
56		Stamp Act	....	2	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..
57	269, 277, 279, 280, 283, 285 to 286, 289, 291 to 294, Section 34 of Act V. of 1861, and any other Municipal or local laws.	Public and local nuisances..	307·52	463	..	7	391	·28	..	388	8	4	..
		Total....	575·63	805	..	30	585	186	..	610	21	23	..
58	Other special and local laws cognizable by Police.	Arms Act	18·44	14	..	..	8	..	..	8	..	..	1
		Coolie Act	57·60	101	4	1	42	2	..	38	6	1	..
		Poppy cultivation	·6	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Ferry Act	....	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
		Total	76·04	117	4	1	51	3	..	46	6	1	1
		Grand Total	7,979·68	10,900	578	447	7,755	992	55	2,608	2,497	342	5

1.—(*Continued.*)

Persons.																Property.				
Number arrested or appeared on other process during the year.						Acquitted or discharged after appearance before a Magistrate.		Finally convicted (including persons ordered to give security for good conduct).				Number pending at end of year.								
												Before being put on trial								
By Police.	By order of Magistrate.	Total.	Died, escaped, or transferred before trial.	Released without being brought before a Magistrate.	Number who actually appeared before a Magistrate.	By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	Otherwise disposed of, *e.g.*, died, transferred, &c., after commencement of trial.	In custody of Police.	On bail.	Under trial before Magistrate.	Committed to Sessions.	Number of cases in which property was stolen.	Number of cases in which property was recovered.	Amount of property stolen.	Amount of property recovered.	Cases decided.
11	12	12*a*	13	14	15	16	17	*a*	18	*b*	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
																		Rs.	Rs.	
..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
33	181	226	..	..	226	105	..	106	..	..	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	161
..	1	1	..	..	1	....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
7	..	7	..	..	7	1	..	4	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
148	75	230	..	..	230	39	..	189	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	5	5	..	..	5	....	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
479	105	588	..	1	587	39	..	548	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	413
667	367	1,057	..	1	1,056	184	..	853	..	..	..	..	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	711
12	6	19	..	..	19	4	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
74	55	130	..	1	129	25	..	104	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
1	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
1	1	2	..	..	2	....	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
88	62	152	..	1	151	30	..	121	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
6,069	1,791	8,207	15	355	7,839	2,598	61	4,824	62	14	..	1	260	17		2,846	1,348	1,23,011	58,382	6,155

1. *General Statement of Crime, showing the result of Police operations in the detection and prosecution of crime and recovery of stolen property during the year* 1876.

PART II.—*Return of Non-Cognizable Crime.*

Serial Number.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.						Persons.							
			Average of institutions of preceding years.	Instituted by complaint during the year.	Taken up by Magistrate of his own motion.	Total of columns 5 and 6.	Number of cases in column 7 in which the police were employed to make inquiry.	Number of cases in which process issued.	Number of persons against whom process issued.	Actually appearing before the court, including persons from last year.	Discharged after appearance.	Acquitted. By Magistrate.	Acquitted. By High or Sessions Court.	Convicted. By Magistrate.	Convicted. By High or Sessions Court.	Waiting trial at close of year.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	115	Abetment of offence not committed, &c.	....	....	..	....	....	..	....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..
	117	Abetting commission of offence by public, &c.														
	118, 119	Concealing design to commit offence														
		Total	....	....	..	....	....	..	....	...	..	..	..	..	..	..
		CLASS I.—*Offences against the State, public tranquillity, &c., &c.*														
2	121 to 130, 505	Offences against the State.....	....	1	..	1	....	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
3	187	Harbouring deserters by master of ship	....	....	..	....	....	..	....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	172 to 190, 201 to 204, 213 to 215, 227, 228.	Offences against public justice	426·6	494	28	522	57	446	1,350	1,330*	16	248	..	1,058	..	27
5	161 to 169, 217 to 223	Offences by public servants	52·7	41	4	45	5	30	46	53†	4	19	..	27	..	2
6	193 to 200, 205 to 211, 229, 421 to 424.	False evidence, false complaints, and claims, and fraudulent deeds, and disposition of property.	108·2	135	12	147	2	118	160	212‡	12	69	17	103	2	7
7	465 to 477	Forgery or fraudulently using forged documents.	27·4	21	4	25	1	18	23	26	3	10	1	2	9	1
8	264 to 267	Offences relating to weighing and measuring	13·16	11	3	14	10	8	20	20	..	8	..	11	..	1
9	482 to 489	Making or using false trade-marks.....	·4	2	..	2	....	2	2	2	..	..	..	2	..	..
10	149, 154 to 156, 160	Rioting, unlawful assembly, affray	29·72	48	1	49	22	29	95	144	2	26	..	116	..	.
		Total	658·18	753	52	805	97	652	1,697	1,788	38	380	18	1,299	11	38
		CLASS II.—*Serious offences against the person.*														
11	312 to 316	Causing miscarriage	25·88	62	2	64	62	3	4	8	4	3	1	..	..	..
12	370	Buying or disposing of slaves	·01	2	..	2	....	..	....	4	..	2	..	..	..	2
		Total	25·89	64	2	66	62	3	4	12	4	5	1	..	..	2

		CLASS III.—*Serious offences against property.*														
13	384 to 389	Extortion	158·44	127	..	127	37	70	99	71	6	38	..	21	..	6
		CLASS IV.—*Minor offences against the person.*														
14	323	Hurt	19·6	35	..	35	5	17	18	§ 18	1	3	..	13	..	..
15	345	Wrongful confinement	....	4	..	4	....	3	3	3	..	3	..	..	..	..
16	352, 355, 358	Criminal force	13,369·48	5,873	..	5,873	275	4,467	5,788	2,873	814	1,033	..	1,503	..	25
		Total	13,389·08	5,912	..	5,912	280	4,487	5,809	2,894	815	1,039	..	1,516	..	25
		CLASS V.—*Minor offences against property.*														
17	417 to 420	Cheating	252·56	322	1	323	16	174	209	¶ 143	37	34	..	63	..	9
18	403, 404	Criminal misappropriation of property	310·72	321	1	322	58	97	133	** 136	16	39*	..	81	..	..
19	409	Criminal breach of trust by public servants, bankers, &c.	14·56	27	..	27	5	5	8	9	..	..	1	6	..	1
20	426 to 429, 434	Mischief (simple)	1,055·08	941	3	944	84	681	835	549	60	181	..	289	..	19
		Total	1,632·92	1,611	5	1,616	163	957	1,185	837	113	254	1	439	..	29
		CLASS VI.—*Other offences not specified above.*														
21	493 to 498	Offences relating to marriage	605·64	505	..	505	20	346	380	197	49	104	9	26	1	8
22	298	Offences against religion	....	....	..	....	....	..	....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..
23	490 to 492	Criminal breach of contract of service	17·84	31	..	31	....	19	31	21	9	4	..	6	..	2
24	500 to 502	Defamation	133·76	106	..	106	1	67	77	49	19	18	..	12	..	..
25	504, 506 to 510	Intimidation and insult	156·72	147	..	147	3	68	84	78	5	23	1	49	..	..
26	271 to 276, 278, 284, 287, 288, 290.	Public and local nuisances	75·5	76	1	77	24	46	64	61	3	5	..	53	..	..
27	294A	Keeping a lottery office	....	....	..	....	....	..	....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..
28	....	Offences under Chapters XVIII., XX., XXI., and XXII., C. P. C.	528·16	1,078	4	1,082	81	618	2,339	1,512	24	211	..	1,275	..	2
		Total	1,517·62	1,943	5	1,948	129	1,164	2,975	1,918	109	365	10	1,421	1	12
		Special Laws not cognizable by Police, in detail.														
28a	.....	Inner Line	....	2	..	2	....	2	55	55	..	..	..	55	..	.
28b	.....	Jail Act	4·08	3	3	6	2	4	4	7	..	2	..	5	..	..
29	Act XVIII. of 1854	Post-office Act	3·64	6	1	7	1	5	7	8	2	2	..	4	..	..
30	.....	Arms Act	1·4	....	5	5	....	..	....	6	1	1	..	4	..	..
31	" V. of 1861	Police Act	51·4	77	5	82	39	73	87	98	..	12	..	85	..	1
31a	.....	Section 209, C. P. C.—Compensation	·2	....	1	1	....	1	1	1	.	..	..	1	..	..
32	" XXI. of 18[illegible]6	Abkari Act	5·	11	..	11	7	10	12	12	..	1	..	11	..	..
33	" V. of 1866	Ferry Act	11·08	17	..	17	9	7	8	9		1	..	7	..	1
33a	.....	Coolie Act	213·32	331	..	331	5	250	559	†† 477	26	65	..	383	..	1
34	.....	Regulation of 1873	·6	2	..	2	....	2	2	2	..	2	..	..	..	..
35	" XI. of 1866	Census Act	....	2	..	2	....	2	2	2	..	..	..	2	..	..
36	" VIII. of 1871	Registry Act	2·	6	1	7	....	6	8	9	..	..	..	8	..	1
36a	.....	Stamp Act	1·2	8	6	14	....	14	18	22	..	4	..	18	..	..
37	" III. of 1857 and of 1871	Pound Act	683·88	620	1	621	16	469	655	529	40	137	..	151	..	1
38	" IX. of 1872	Breach of contract	214·4	525	..	525	....	457	720	509	41	76	..	387	..	5
39	Criminal Procedure Code	Contempt of court	2·8	7	7	14	....	14	15	15	..	2	..	13	..	..
40	.....	Other special laws	5·2	12	1	13	1	9	11	12	..	1	..	11	..	..
		Total	1,200·25	1,629	31	1,660	80	1,525	2,164	1,573	110	306	..	1,145	..	10
		Grand Total	18,782·38	12,0[illegible]9	95	12,1[illegible]4	848	8,658	13,9[illegible]3	9,093	695	2,387	30	5,841	12	122

* One died.
† One „
‡ One „ and one committed to Sessions.
§ One of these transferred to Section 352.
‖ One person was received from Section 323, and one transferred from No. 39 of Part I.
¶ One person transferred and one received from Section 409.
** One person transferred to Section 417.
†† Two persons died.

[42] D.—Po

2. *Comparative Statement of Cognizable*

Serial Number.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Total number of cases investigated during the year. Columns 6, 7, and 8 of Statement A.		Percentage of cases in which conviction was obtained to cases decided.	
			1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	115	Abetment of offence not committed, &c.	....	....	....	....
	117	Abetting commission of offence by public, &c.	1	....	....	....
	118, 119	Concealing design to commit offence	....	....	....	....
		Total	1	....	....	....
	CLASS I.—*Offences against the State, public tranquillity, safety, and justice.*					
2	131 to 136, 138	Offences relating to Army and Navy	....	....	....	....
3	231 to 259, 260 to 263, 467 and 471	Offences relating to coin, stamps, and Government notes.	27	34	....	....
4	212, 216	Harbouring an offender	1	4	....	....
5	224 to 226	Other offences against public justice	51	57	....	....
6	143 to 153, 157, 158	Rioting or unlawful assembly	303	323	....	....
7	140, 170, 171	Personating public servant or soldier	3	2	....	....
		Total	385	420	52·72	52·14
	CLASS II.—*Serious offences against the person.*					
8	302, 303, 396	Murder by thugs	....	....	....	....
9		Murder by dacoits	....	....	....	....
10		Murder by robbers	1	....	....	....
11		Murder by poison	1	1	....	....
12		Other murders	33	33	....	....
13	307	Attempts at murder	7	2	....	....
14	304, 308	Culpable homicide	21	31	....	....
15	376	Rape	62	55	....	....
16	377	Unnatural offences	24	28	....	....
17	317, 318	Exposure of infants or concealment of birth	9	11	....	....
18	305, 306, 309	Attempt at, and abetment of, suicide	32	26	....	....
19	329, 331, 333	Grievous hurt for the purpose of extorting property or confession.	2	....	....	....
20	325, 326, 335	Grievous hurt	90	73	....	....
21	327	Administering stupefying drugs to cause hurt	1	2	....	....
22	327, 330, 332	Hurt for purpose of extorting property or confession.	8	2	....	....
23	324	Hurt by dangerous weapon	150	139	....	....
24	363 to 369	Kidnapping or abduction	45	53	....	....
25	346 to 348	Wrongful confinement and restraint in secret or for purposes of extortion.	20	47	....	....
26	372, 373	Selling, letting, or unlawfully obtaining a woman for prostitution.	....	3	....	....
27	371	Habitually dealing in slaves	2	1	....	....
28	353, 354, 356, 357	Criminal force to public servant or woman, or in attempt to commit theft or wrongfully confine.	106	113	....	....
29	304A, 338	Rash or negligent act causing death or grievous hurt.	10	19	....	....
		Total	619	639	38·78	30·72
	CLASS III.—*Serious offences against person and property, or against property only.*					
30	395, 397, 398	Dacoity	15	17	....	....
31	399, 402	Preparation and assembly for dacoity	....	....	....	....
32	394, 397, 398	Robbery with hurt, by poisonous or stupefying drugs.	....	....	....	....
		Robbery with hurt, by other means	....	....	....	....
33	392, 398	Robbery in dwelling-house	....	1	....	....
		Robbery on the highway between sunset and sunrise.	1	....	....	....
		Robbery other robberies	55	84	....	....
34	270, 281, 282, 430 to 433, 435 to 440	Serious mischief and cognate offences	159	195	....	....
		Mischief (simple)	67	56	....	....

LICE.

Crime, with result of Police operations for the year 1876.

Number and percentage of persons arrested and brought to trial.								Amount of property stolen.		Amount and percentage of property recovered.			
Number of persons arrested		Number of persons brought to trial.		Percentage of persons convicted to persons arrested.		Percentage of persons convicted to persons brought to trial.				Amount.		Percentage of property recovered to property stolen.	
1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
								Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
26	35	24	33	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
2	6	2	6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
94	117	92	113	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1,118	1,196	1,080	1,175	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
6	6	4	6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1,246	1,360	1,202	1,333	66·45	68·38	60·88	69·76	....	....	....	....	....	....
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
4	....	4	....	....	....	....	....	800	....	....	....	....	....
....	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
37	54	34	52	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
7	2	7	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
25	41	24	37	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
31	21	27	20	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
17	12	11	12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
7	11	6	11	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
23	22	21	20	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
115	52	106	51	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1	2	1	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
2	6	2	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
174	134	166	124	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
43	56	39	48	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
41	31	38	28	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
5	11	5	9	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
4	....	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
128	171	126	170	....	....	....	....	....	159	....	....	....	....
9	18	9	18	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
673	645	630	609	52·	42·32	55·55	44·82	800	159	....	....	....	....
43	27	43	25	....	....	....	....	1,966	990	113	270	....	....
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	45	....	....	....	....
6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
42	43	42	38	....	....	....	....	758	768	33	105	....	....
102	112	94	94	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
43	38	42	33	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....

[42] D.—POLICE.—

2. *Comparative Statement of Cognizable*

Serial Number.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Total number of cases investigated during the year, Columns 6, 7 and 8 of Statement A.		Percentage of cases in which conviction was obtained to cases decided.	
			1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		CLASS III.—*Serious offences against person and property, or against property only.*—(Continued.)				
35	454, 455, 457 to 460	Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking with intent to commit an offence, or having made preparation for hurt.	606	840	....	....
36	449 to 452	House-trespass with a view to commit an offence, or having made preparation for hurt	36	24	....	....
37	412, 413	Receiving stolen property by dacoity or habitually	12	17	....	....
		Total....	951	1,234	20·40	14·15
		CLASS IV.—*Minor offences against the person.*				
38	334	Hurt on grave or sudden provocation	2	5	....	....
38a	....	Simple hurt	152	315	....	....
39	341 to 344	Wrongful restraint and confinement	514	658	....	....
40	336, 337	Rash act, causing hurt or endangering life	....	2	....	....
40a	323	Voluntarily causing hurt	....	34	....	....
41	374	Compulsory labour	4	4	....	....
		Total	672	1,008	26·33	28·94
		CLASS V.—*Minor offences against property.*				
42	453, 456	Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking	71	64	....	....
43	379 to 382	Theft.. of cattle	299	340	....	....
		Theft.. ordinary	2,836	3,256	....	....
44	406 to 408	Criminal breach of trust	244	261	....	....
45	411, 414	Receiving stolen property	260	266	....	....
45a	....	Mischief by killing or maiming animals	....	28	....	....
46	447, 448	Criminal or house-trespass	436	459	....	....
47	461, 462	Breaking closed receptacle	2	1	....	....
		Total	4,148	4,666	30·49	42·93
		CLASS VI.—*Other offences not specified above.*				
48	311, 400, 401	Belonging to gangs of thugs, dacoits, robbers, and thieves.	1	....	....	....
49	Chapter XIX., C. P. C.	Vagrancy and bad characters	239	172	....	....
50	295 to 297	Offences against religion	3	1	....	....
51	Cognizable offences under the Acts in force in the Province	Cognizable offences under the Gambling Act..	2	4	....	....
52		——— Excise Laws	81	173	....	....
53		——— Railway Laws	....	....	....	....
54		——— Salt and Customs Laws	....	....	....	....
55		——— Stage Carriage Act	....	....	....	....
56		——— Stamp Act	....	2	....	....
57	269, 270, 277, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 285 to 287, 289, 291 to 294, section 34 of Act V. of 1861, and any other Municipal or local laws ..	Public and local nuisances	311	419	....	....
		Total	637	771	70·58	85·79
	....	Other special and local laws cognizable by Police	51	54	75·43	124·32
		Grand Total	7,464	8,802	35·35	42·37

(*Continued*).

Crime, with result of Police operations for the year 1876.—(*Continued*)

Number and percentage of persons arrested and brought to trial.								Amount of property stolen.		Amount and percentage of property recovered.			
Number of persons arrested.		Number of persons brought to trial.		Percentage of persons convicted to persons arrested.		Percentage of persons convicted to persons brought to trial.				Amount.		Percentage of property recovered to property stolen.	
1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
								Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
220	193	193	161	....	....	....	....	21,110	33,652	3,565	5,102	....	....
16	28	16	23	....	....	....	....	180	....	1	....	....	....
32	29	32	29	....	....	....	....	155	....	81	....	....	....
504	471	462	404	44·04	43·31	48·05	50·49	24,178	35,453	3,793	5,477	15·68	15·44
1	8	1	8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
262	332	257	328	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
566	538	546	509	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....	1	..	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....	50	..	49	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
9	4	9	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
838	933	813	898	53·58	53·16	55·22	55·23	....	....	....	....	....	....
61	52	62	46	....	....	....	....	....	589	....	364	....	....
235	219	215	234	....	....	....	....	12,746	8,624	11,731	6,533	....	....
1,918	1,980	1,756	1,812	....	....	....	....	42,476	51,018	17,279	21,480	....	....
180	101	171	165	....	....	....	....	5,307	9,832	1,607	6,220	....	....
437	475	432	475	....	....	....	....	14,282	17,946	8,091	13,808	....	....
....	12	..	12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
694	660	676	654	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
..	..	..	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
3,528	3,589	3,312	3,388	53·74	55·97	57·24	59·29	74,813	87,399	39,698	47,905	53·06	54·81
4	..	4	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
242	226	242	226	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
6	1	6	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
9	7	9	7	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
160	230	159	250	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
..	..	..	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
..	..	..	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
..	..	..	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
..	5	..	5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
438	588	436	587	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
859	1,057	856	1,056	74·62	80·70	74·88	80·77	....	....	....	....	....	....
111	152	108	151	80·18	79·60	82·40	80·18	....	....	....	....	....	....
7,760	8,207	7,384	7,839	57·66	59·53	60·60	62·32	99,791	1,23,011	43,491	53,382	43·58	43·39

3. *Thuggee and Dacoity, Administration of Poisonous or Stupefying Drugs for criminal purposes, and other Professional Crimes, for the year* 1876.

Description of Crime.	Cases.				Persons.							Comparative return.														
	Committed during the previous two years, and in which no conviction was obtained up to the beginning of the year.	Occurred within the year.	Cases under columns 2 and 3 brought to trial within the year	Cases under columns 2 and 3 in which no one was brought to trial up to the close of the year.	Number supposed to be concerned in cases in columns 2 and 3.	Arrested.	Brought to trial.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Remaining.	Number supposed to be at large at the close of the year.	Number of persons arrested.			Brought to trial.			Convicted.			Property stolen.			Property recovered.		
												1874	1875	1876	1874	1875	1876	1874	1875	1876	1874	1875	1876	1874	1875	1876
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			14			15			16			17		
																					Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Dacoity on land .. With wounding ..	..	1	1	..	9	4	4	..	4	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	..
Dacoity on land .. Simple ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	.	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..
Dacoity on water .. Simple ..	4	5	9	2	17	17	15	5	3	7	..	29	29	15	18	29	11	12	5	5	4,359	805	465	79	67	247
Cattle-theft	..	4	..	..	7	8	8	7	1	.	..	46	3	8	46	3	8	44	3	7	300	8	116	300	8	116
Total	4	10	10	2	33	29	27	12	8	7	..	80	32	27	69	32	23	56	8	12	4,689	813	593	379	75	363

4. *Statement of Additional Police collected for the protection of persons and property, or quartered as a punitive measure for the year 1876.*

District.	PART I. ADDITIONAL POLICE COLLECTED FOR THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY.																					PART II. ADDITIONAL POLICE QUARTERED AS A PUNITIVE MEASURE.							
	Name of fairs or places of large assembly, where additional police have been collected during the year.	Duration of fair or assembly.	Estimated number of persons assembled.	Strength of police usually located at the place.				Detached from the regular force.				Specially employed in addition to columns 5 to 8.				Total cost under columns 9 and 10.		Number of offences against person or property during such assembly.		Property.		Number of cases.	Strength of additional police.				Total cost of additional police, including all contingencies.	Period for which quartered.	Number of offences committed in or traced to a village or place in which the additional police was established.
				Officers.				Officers.				Officers.											Officers.						
				Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	To Government.	To local or private funds.	Investigated by the police	In which conviction followed.	Stolen.	Recovered.		Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.			
1	2	3	4	5			6	7			8	9			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			19	20	21	22
																				Rs.	Rs.						Rs.		
Goalpara	Dhubri	15 days, 10th to 25th Jan., 1876.	10,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kámrúp	.....	.....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darráng	.....	.....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nowgong	.....	.....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sibsagar	.....	.....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lakhimpur	.....	.....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sylhet	.....	.....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cachar	Cachar mela.	15 days	3,000	..	..	1	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	7	50	38	..	..	..	1	4	187	6 mos.	..
Khasi Hills	.....	.....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Naga "	.....	.....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gáro "	.....	.....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	.....	.....	4,000	..	..	1	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	7	50	38	..	..	..	1	4	187	6 mos.	..

D.—Police.

5. *Showing Strength, Cost, Distribution, and Employment of Police.*

District.	Sanctioned strength of Police Force.									Cost of Police.								
	Inspector-General, Deputy, and Assistant-Inspectors-General.	Strength of District, Cantonment, Town or Municipal and Water Police, paid for wholly or in part from Imperial revenues.						Strength of Cantonment, Town, or Municipal and Water Police, paid wholly from other than Imperial revenues.		Pay and travelling allowances of Controlling Officers (col. 2), and pay and travelling allowances of their establishments.	Total pay of District and Assistant-District-Superintendents (col. 3).	Other expenses of col. 3.		Total pay of Subordinate Officers (cols. 4 and 5).	Total pay of Constables of all classes (6, 7, and 8).	Horses and travelling allowances, permanent or otherwise, not included in cols. 11, 13, and 14.	Average pay of	
		Number of District and Assistant-District-Superintendents.	Number of Subordinate Officers on Rs. 100 and upwards.	Number of Subordinate Officers on less than Rs. 100.	Number of Mounted Police Constables.	Number of Foot Police Constables.	Number of Water Police Constables.	Officers.	Men.			Travelling allowances of District and Assistant-District-Superintendents.	Pay and travelling allowances of their establishments.				Mounted Constables.	Foot and Water Constables.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
										Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			Rs. A. P.
Goálpára	....	1	2	53	....	265	....	....	6	....	6,000	1,000	2,136	17,640	23,820	....	....	8 0 0
Kámrup	....	1	2	38	....	257	....	4	36	....	7,200	1,200	1,420	14,520	20,424	....	....	7 0 0
Darrang	....	....	2	36	....	210	....	....	....	....	....	1,200	1,348	13,200	18,600	....	....	7 8 0
Nowgong	....	....	1	19	....	140	....	....	....	....	....	420	1,298	8,160	11,160	....	....	7 0 0
Sibsagar	....	1	2	35	....	245	....	....	....	....	8,400	1,000	1,348	12,600	20,832	....	....	7 0 0
Lakhimpur	....	1	2	42	....	301	....	....	....	....	6,000	1,000	1,204	15,960	30,984	....	....	7 10 6
Cachar	....	2	3	62	....	425	....	....	9	....	13,200	800	1,702	21,552	41,352	....	....	8 8 0
Sylhet	....	1	5	89	....	483	....	2	30	....	7,200	1,200	1,936	35,580	43,368	....	....	8 0 0
Khasi Hills	....	....	1	17	....	128	....	....	....	....	....	....	1,120	8,240	13,6 8	....	....	9 0 0
Naga "	....	1	2	11	....	150	....	....	....	....	4,200	1,200	642	7,092	17,40	....	....	9 8 0
Gáro "	....	1	3	30	....	302	....	....	....	....	6,000	400	100	14,400	32,280	....	....	9 0 0
Total	....	9	25	432	....	2,906	....	6	81	....	71,400	9,420	14,254	1,69,044	2,73,828	....	....	8 0 3

District.	Cost of Police.				Distribution of Force.										Proportion of Police (Officers and Men).					
					In Districts.						On Town, Municipal, or Harbour duty.				To area.			To population.		
					Guards at District, Central, or Subsidiary Jails.		Guards over lock-ups and Treasuries, or as escort to prisoners and treasure.		On other duties.											
	Contingencies, and all expenses other than included in columns 11 to 19.	Total cost.	Payable from Imperial revenues.	Payable from other sources.	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	In cantonments.	Area of whole district, in square miles.	Population of whole district.	Of the whole district.	Of district, exclusive of towns.	Of towns.	Of the whole district.	Of district, exclusive of towns.	Of towns.
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		31	32	33	34		35	36		37
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.																	
Goálpára	5,741	56,871	56,337	534	2	16	6	32	47	217	..	6	..	4,433	444,000	1 to 13·55	....	..	1 to 1,361	1 to 1,251	1 to 1,010
Kamrúp	4,781	55,485	49,545	5,940	2	28	4	16	34	213	4	36	..	3,373	561,631	1 „ 9·98	1 to 12·20	1 to 11	1 „ 1,661	1 „ 1,865	1 „ 87
Darrang	4,021	44,369	44,369	..	2	20	4	16	32	174	..	..	..	3,413	236,009	1 „ 13·70	1 „ 13·75	..	1 „ 947	1 „ 931	1 „ 20
Nowgong	3,240	31,478	31,478	..	2	16	2	17	16	107	..	..	..	3,648	256,290	1 „ 22·65	....	..	1 „ 1,592	....	....
Sibsagar	4,319	48,499	48,499	..	2	24	7	42	28	179	..	..	..	2,846	296,589	1 „ 10·06	....	..	1 „ 1,048	....	....
Lakhimpur	4,483	59,631	59,631	..	2	16	15	90	27	195	..	..	..	3,145	121,267	1 „ 9·09	....	..	1 „ 350	....	....
Cachar	10,036	89,575	88,642	933	3	20	3	17	59	378	..	9	..	5,000	205,027	1 „ 16·06	1 to 2·6	1 to 3	1 „ 412	1 „ 412	1 „ 414
Sylhet	16,791	1,08,927	1,06,075	2,750	3	65	6	47	85	371	2	30	..	5,440	1,719,539	1 „ 8·92	....	1 „ 9	1 „ 2,819	1 „ 2,940	1 „ 526
Khasi Hills	1,920	24,988	24,988	..	1	13	2	23	15	92	..	..	..	2,160	20,979	1 „ 14·79	....	..	1 „ 137	....	....
Nága „	5,730	36,264	36,264	..	..	..	3	27	10	123	..	..	..	4,900	68,918	1 „ 29·87	....	..	1 „ 420	....	....
Garo „	4,848	58,028	58,028	..	..	..	2	15	31	287	..	..	..	4,000	90,000	1 „ 11·90	....	..	1 „ 267	....	....
Total ..	65,910	6,14,115	6,03,856	10,157	19	228	54	342	384	2,336	6	81	..	42,358	4,019,449	1 „ 1,225	....	..	1 „ 1,162	....	....

6. *Return showing equipment, discipline, and general internal management of the Force in each district of the Province.*

District.	Total sanctioned strength.				Armament of the Force.			Punishments.																							
								Dismissed.				Fined, degraded, or suspended by their own departmental officers.				Punished judicially by a Magistrate.															
																Under Police Act.				Under Sections 330, 331, 348, Penal Code.				Under Chapter IX of Penal Code.				Other offences.			
	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	Number provided with firearms.	Number provided with swords only, or swords and batons.	Number provided with batons only.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.
1	2			3	4	5	6	7			8	9			10	11			12	13			14	15			16	17			18
Goalpára	2	9	44	265	180	11	309	..	..	5	19	..	4	21	35		1	6	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4
Municipal	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kámrúp	2	10	28	257	54	12	231	..	..	..	11	1	7	10	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal	..	1	3	36	..	1	39	..	..	1	3	..	1	2	14	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	2	8	28	210	170	..	49	..	1	1	6	2	9	8	39	..	..	1	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Nowgong	1	5	14	140	142	6	12	..	..	..	7	..	3	2	6	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Sibságar	2	7	26	245	205	9	68	..	1	2	9	1	4	13	35	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Lakhimpur	2	8	34	301	266	19	50	..	..	..	9	..	..	7	14	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sylhet	5	18	71	483	247	23	307	..	2	6	12	1	3	16	61	..	3	3	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	8
Municipal	..	..	2	30	..	..	32	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cachar	3	9	53	425	374	12	104	..	..	..	19	..	2	14	51	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Municipal	..	..	..	9	..	..	9	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Khási Hills	1	4	13	128	141	5	141	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Naga "	2	3	8	150	158	5	..	..	..	..	5	1	2	2	39	..	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Garo "	3	6	24	302	326	9	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	7	48	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	6
Total Regular	25	87	345	2,906	2,263	102	1,271	..	4	14	103	6	35	100	349	..	4	10	60	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	2	4	32
" Municipal	..	1	5	81	..	1	80	..	..	1	11	..	1	2	35	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

D.—Police, 6.—(*Continued.*)

District.	Rewards. Number of Police rewarded during the year. By promotion.	By money rewards.	Good conduct stripes.	Education. Number of Police who can read and write. Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	Number of Police under instruction during the year. Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head Constables.	Men.	Number enlisted during the year.	Of one year's service, and under ten years.	Of ten years' service and upwards.	Number who have left the force during the year. On pension.	On gratuity.	By resignation without pension or gratuity.	By dismissal (Columns 7 and 8).	By discharge otherwise than under preceding columns.	By desertion.	By death.	Percentage in hospital during the year to total strength of force.	Percentage of deaths during the year to total strength of force.
	19	20		21			22	23			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
		Money.																					
Goalpára	....	2	1	2	7	30	46	....	....	....	....	65	178	76	..	..	33	24	2	1	5	1·25	1·56
Municipal	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	....	....	....	....	6	....	....	..	..	....	3	1	..	..	....	....
Kámrúp	....	....	....	2	10	18	25	....	....	....	....	38	254	5	..	..	34	11	1	..	4	38·14	1·34
Municipal	....	....	....	....	1	3	2	....	....	....	....	5	34	....	..	..	....	4	3	..	..	....	....
Darrang	....	....	....	2	5	28	18	....	....	....	18	25	160	63	1	3	17	8	..	..	2	8·78	0·80
Nowgong	2	....	....	1	5	14	16	....	....	....	124	22	82	56	..	..	11	7	1	..	3	60·6	1·87
Sibsagar	4	....	9	2	7	19	19	....	....	....	....	44	150	88	..	4	13	12	5	1	8	3·5	2·83
Lakhimpur	....	3	....	2	8	8	15	....	....	....	....	41	221	83	..	4	16	9	..	..	4	85·2	1·15
Sylhet	1	13	1	5	16	53	58	....	....	....	....	45	331	197	..	..	11	20	3	1	10	1·6	1·73
Municipal	....	....	....	....	....	1	8	....	....	....	....	8	23	1	..	..	2	2	4	..	..	....	....
Cachar	....	....	....	2	6	28	48	....	....	....	....	68	263	158	..	2	13	19	..	5	11	94·6	2·24
Municipal	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9	....	....	..	..	....	3	1	..	..	22·2	....
Khási Hills	....	....	....	1	4	13	30	....	....	13	123	23	87	36	..	4	8	4	5	..	2	5·0	1·36
Naga ,,	....	....	....	2	3	2	20	....	....	....	....	35	119	9	..	1	1	5	..	16	..	1·72	....
Garo ,,	....	....	....	2	7	12	40	....	....	1	3	66	255	6	..	2	18	2	18	1	6	6·8	1·79
Total Regular	7	18	11	23	78	225	335	....	....	14	273	472	2,100	777	1	20	175	121	35	25	55	....	1·63
Municipal	....	....	....	....	1	4	12	....	....	....	....	28	57	1	..	..	2	12	9	..	..	....	....

D.—Police.

7. *Showing the Race and Religion, or Caste, of Officers and Men employed in the Police.*

District.	Race.												Religion or Caste.																
													Officers.																
	Europeans.				Eurasians.				Natives.						Hindus.								Other religions.						
	District or Assistant-District-Superintendents.		Subordinate Officers.	Constables.	District or Assistant-District Superintendents.	Subordinate Officers.		Constables.	District or Assistant-District Superintendents.	Subordinate Officers.		Constables.																	
	Military or Covenanted Civil.	Uncovenanted.				Above Rs. 100.	Below Rs. 100.			Above Rs. 100.	Below Rs. 100.		Christians.	Mahomedans.	Brahmans.	Chetrees.	Goorkhas.	Solkhs.	Assamese Kolita.	Assamese of other castes.	Manipuris.	Hindus of all other castes.	Nágas.	Kukies.	Gárós.	Kamptees.	Cacharees.	Rabhas.	Khásias.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Goalpara	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	53	265	1	16	7	1	9	1	6	3	..	11	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Municipal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kámrup	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	38	257	1	5	6	..	..	..	..	12	1	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	36	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	36	210	1	1	2	..	..	..	2	19	..	4	..	..	..	..	5	4	..
Nowgong	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	19	140	1	1	2	3	..	..	2	5	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sibsagar	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	35	245	3	3	2	4	1	..	..	..	..	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lakhimpur	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	42	301	1	2	2	..	4	8	..	5	1	6	..	..	..	1	15	..	..
Sylhet	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	89	483	1	12	14	1	2	2	..	13	5	44	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Municipal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	30	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cachar	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	62	425	2	6	7	2	16	2	..	4	8	16	..	4	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Khási Hills	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	17	128	1	..	1	1	3	..	..	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Garo "	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	30	302	2	1	3	..	6	4	..	..	1	..	15	..	2	..	..	..	..
Nága "	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	11	150	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..
Total Regular	..	9	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	23	432	2,906	15	47	46	13	41	17	10	66	18	130	15	4	4	1	30	4	6
" Municipal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	81	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

District.	Religion or Caste.																		
	Men.																		
			Hindus.								Other religions.								
	Christians.	Muhammadans.	Brahmans.	Chetrees.	Goorkhas.	Selkhs.	Assamese Kolita.	Assamese of all other castes.	Manipuris.	Hindus of all other castes.	Nágas.	Kukies.	Garos.	Cachareen.	Burmese.	Khásias.	Mikirs.	Bhooteas.	Grand Total of Officers and Men.
	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
Goálpára	....	19	6	1	35	....	62	111	....	18	..	....	13	..	....	....	..	..	321
Municipal	....	....	..	2	....	....	....	....	....	4	..	....	....	..	....	....	..	..	6
Kámrúp	....	9	2	....	....	....	....	189	....	50	..	....	5	..	1	....	..	1	298
Municipal	....	....	..	....	....	....	....	19	....	17	..	....	....	..	....	....	..	..	40
Darrang	....	6	1	6	4	....	15	70	....	19	..	....	5	84	....	....	..	..	248
Nowgong	....	....	..	5	1	....	9	66	....	59	..	....	....	..	....	....	..	..	161
Sibsagar	2	18	7	55	7	....	....	....	....	156	..	....	....	..	....	....	..	..	283
Lakhimpur	....	33	6	8	14	9	....	3	....	52	..	....	6	164	1	....	5	..	346
Sylhet	3	68	30	26	35	1	....	106	22	185	..	....	7	..	....	....	..	..	578
Municipal	....	10	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	20	..	....	....	..	....	....	..	..	32
Cachar	2	56	9	10	176	3	....	19	21	46	2	44	....	36	....	1	..	..	492
Municipal	....	6	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	..	....	....	..	....	....	..	..	9
Khási Hills	....	2	9	20	10	....	....	41	5	10	..	....	....	..	....	31	..	..	146
Gáro „	....	1	2	....	77	2	....	144	8	1	..	....	67	..	....	....	..	..	336
Nága „	....	....	..	6	11	....	....	....	....	16	..	1	32	84	....	....	..	..	164
Total Regular	7	212	72	137	370	15	86	749	56	612	2	45	135	368	2	32	5	1	3,373
„ Municipal	....	16	..	2	....	....	....	19	....	44	..	....	....	..	....	....	..	..	87

1. *Statement showing the strength, cost, and other particulars of the Army attached to the Province of Assam in the year 1876.*

ARM OF SERVICE.	Total number of fighting officers and men.								Details of Force at the end of year.							Average annual pay and allowance of each class.					
	Remaining at the end of last year.	Received this year.	Died.			Invalided.	Discharged, deserted, &c.	Remaining at the end of year.	Number of horses, or bullocks.	Number of guns.	Number of men.				Paid compulsory non combatant units.	European commissioned officers.	Native commissioned officers.	Non commissioned officers.	Fighting men.	Camp-followers.	Total cost, including contingencies.
			In action.	Otherwise.	Total.						European officers.	Native officers.	Non commissioned officers.	Fighting men.							
																Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
35th Regiment, Native Infantry.	719	7	..	22	22	9	6	691	1	.	12*	13	80	[illegible]	47	[illegible]	10,464	13,511	[illegible]	4,[illegible]24	1,70,199
42nd Regiment, Assam Light Infantry.	823	155	..	16	16	[illegible]	45	[illegible]	1		8	16	79	789	56	55,428	12,072	15,349	92,222	5,249	1,85,339
43rd Regiment, Assam Light Infantry.	900	70	.	19	19	16	31	857	1	..	9	16	[illegible]	761	50	13,4[illegible]2	11,305	12,432	101,446	6,308	1,84,422
44th Regiment, Native Infantry..	859	83	..	12	12	33	27	8[illegible]	1	..	8	16	80	[illegible]	54	67,[illegible]57	11,310	15,092	94,157	5,546	2,01,958
Total.....	3,301	315	..	69	69	91	10[illegible]	[illegible]215	4	....	37	61	[illegible]	2,9[illegible]5	207	2,10,182	45,151	56,354	3,43,864	21,127	7,41,918

* Includes officers absent on leave.

2. *Statement showing the distribution and employment of the Army attached to the Province of Assam in the year* 1876.

Arm of Service.	Employment on last day of the year.							Employment during the year.						
	Number of regiments, battlions, &c., on active service.	Name of permanent cantonment employed.	Number of outposts occupied.	Average number of men at head-quarters of each regiment not on active service.		Average number of men of each regiment, &c., detailed for outpost duty.		Average number of days spent by each man on active service.	Average number of days spent by each man not on active service.			Number of distrahual or station parades during the year.	Number of regimental parades during the year.	Average number of days devoted to musketry instructions, &c.
				On duty.	Off duty.	On duty.	Off duty.		On duty.	With corps or company not on duty.	On furlough.			
35th Native Infantry.....	1	Cachar ..	4	30	422	28	84	*Nil.*	81·33	254·48	30·19	....	200	15
42nd Assam Light Infantry.....	1	Gauhati ..	2	35	576	36	210	56·02	36	488·11	56	6	239	9·67
43rd Assam Light Infantry	1	Shillong ..	3	50	634	36	167	*Nil.*	20·01	344·98	44·02	10	240	182
44th Native Infantry	1	Dibrugarh ..	5	33	534	37	227	*Nil.*	68·90	297·63	0·31	15	135	49
Total	4	.....	14	148	2,166	137	688	56·02	206 24	1,285·20	130·52	31	814	255·67

[50] E.—MILITARY.

3. *Statement showing Religion, Races, and Classes of the Native Officers and Men of the Army attached to the Province of Assam on the last day of the year* 1876.

Classification according to religion, races, &c.		Number.	Average. Age.	Average. Height.	Average. Weight.	General physiognomy and characteristics of each race and caste.
35th N. I.	Christians	9	27·88	5′6″	No record.	Nothing peculiar.
	Muhammadans.	19	29	5′7″		
	Hindus	653	27 28	5′8″		
42nd A. L. I.	Christians	...	.....	.....	From 2½ mds. to 1½ mds.	.....
	Muhammadans	124	35	5′7″		
	Hindus	761	30	.....		
43rd A. L. I.	Christians	...	.....	.....	10 stone.	Goorkhas with usual features; Kowahs, coarse Assamese features.
	Muhammadans.	34	40	5′8″		
	Hindus	823	29	5′4″		
44th N. I.	Christians	7	27 85	5′5″	1 md. 30 s.	Caucassian.
	Muhammadans.	21	33·83	5′6″	1 md. 29 s.	.....
	Hindus	835	29 83	5′6″	1 md. 25 s.	Mongolian and Caucassian.

[51] F.—MARINE. 1.—[*Blank.*]

[52] F.—MARINE. 2.—[*Blank.*]

PART III.

STATISTICS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

[53, 54, 55,] A.—FINANCE.

1, 2, 3.—*See* Chaptor V.—Finance.

[56] B.—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1. *Statement showing the Expenditure incurred on Imperial, Provincial, and Local Services in the Public Works Department during the year* 1876-77.

	Original Works.	Repairs.	Total.	Grand Total.
IMPERIAL SERVICES—ORDINARY—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Military	15,670	20,414	36,084	
Civil Buildings	11,958	1,715	13,673	
Establishment	.....	.....	12,433	
	.....	.....	.....	62,190
Barrack Department	.....	.....	.....	137
Total, Imperial Services...	.....	.....	.....	62,327
PROVINCIAL SERVICES—ORDINARY—				
Civil Buildings	1,01,179	41,273	1,42,452	
Communications	1,24,461	1,52,683	2,77,144	
Miscellaneous Public Improvements.	29	56	85	
Establishment	.....	.....	2,50,502	
Tools and plant	.....	.....	14,704	
Profit and loss	.....	.....	128	
	.....	.....	6,85,015	
Suspense balances	.....	.....	—35,453	
Total, Provincial Services...	.....	.....	.....	6,49,562
LOCAL SERVICES—				
Williamson Education Fund—				
Works and repairs	.....	450		
Establishment	.....	113		
			563	
Assam Local Fund—				
Works and repairs	.....	7,406		
Establishment	.....	412		
			7,818	
District Improvement Fund Reserve Account—				
Works and repairs	91,546	1,474		
			93,020	
Miscellaneous Improvement Account—				
Works and repairs	905	.....	905	
Total, Local Services...	.....	.....	.....	1,02,306
GRAND TOTAL	.....	.....	.....	8,14,195

[57] B.—PUBLIC WORKS.

2. *Statement showing the Income and Expenditure on reproductive works in* 1876-77.—[*Blank.*]

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[58] C.—RAILWAYS.

[*Blank, there being no Railway in the Province.*]

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[59] D.—MARINE.

1. *Statement showing the various Government Ships and Vessels employed in the Province of Assam in the year* 1876-77.

DETAIL OF VESSELS.	Tonnage of each vessel and horse-power of engines of a steamer.		Number of officers.	Number of men.	Total annual cost.	Total annual earning of the vessel.	REMARKS
	Tons.	H. P.			Rs	Rs.	
Steamer "*Prince Albert*," April to December, 1877.	357	170	5	65	32,380	Not known.	Employed under the orders of the Chief Commissioner of Assam.
Steamer "*Koladyne*," from January to March, 1877.	295	90	5	42	7,649		
Paddle-steamer No. 2, April, 1876, to March, 1877.	55	110	1	13	5,633		
Flat "*Gogra*," April, 1876, to March, 1877.	304	...	1	22	8,661		
Yacht "*Sunamukhi*," April, 1876, to March, 1877.	...	..	1	15	8,046		

[60] D.—MARINE.

2. *Statement showing number of Officers and Men employed otherwise than in Government Vessels in the Province of Assam in the year* 1876-77.—[*Blank.*]

E.—Agriculture.

1. *Crops cultivated, in acres* (1876-77).

Districts.		Area of rainy-season crops in acres.										Area of dry-season crops in acres.								
		Rice.	Indian-corn.	Other food-grains.	Oil-seeds.	Fibres.	Cotton.	Sugar-cane.	Tea.	Potatoes.	Total.	Wheat.	Barley.	Rice.	Other food-grains.	Oil-seeds.	Others.	Total.	Grand total.	Remarks.
Surma Valley districts.	Sylhet	966,600	..	255,000	93,000	960	1,350	50,500	250	..	1,367,660	....	..	631,010	....	....	....	631,010	1,998,670	These figures are almost all conjectural.
	Cachar	246,800	..	....	..	100	2,500	300	32,885	..	282,585	....	..	....	....	1,000	5,300	6,300	288,885	
Brahmaputra Valley districts.	Goálpára	380,236	..	2,519	..	125,350	22,170	500	1,942	..	532,717	10,265	..	....	46,620	75,998	....	132,883	665,600	
	Kamrup	88,261	..	3,358	..	....	2,153	3,824	6,012	..	103,608	....	..	282,719	21,219	45,995	23,260	373,193	476,801	
	Darrang	8,200	100	300	145	461	665	2,363	11,125	1,500	24,859	....	..	123,065	500	6,006	300	129,811	154,670	
	Nowgong	76,635	1,700	8,248	1,950	600	8,400	1,650	3,860	200	103,243	...	..	45,972	24,745	73,200	1,800	145,717	248,960	
	Sibsagar	213,150	..	....	..	15	28	4,221	27,936	..	245,350	....	..	....	10,655	6,965	43,157	60,777	306,127	
	Lakhimpur	46,730	..	....	.	2,475	....	....	15,476	..	64,681	....	..	....	7,000	3,000	400	10,400	75,081	
Hill districts.	Garo Hills*	....	..	....	..	....	....	....	....	..	....	....	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	
	Khási Hills† ..	59,880	2,460	48,360	..	....	1,076	....	....	33 880	152,656	....	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	
	Naga Hills* ..	....	..	....	..	....	....	....	....	..	....	....	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	

* The Deputy-Commissioner have reported their returns blank in the absence of any information on the subject.
† No crops during the months of December, January, and February.

E.—AGRICULTURE.

2. *Stock* (1876-77).

Districts.	Cows, bullocks, and buffaloes, &c.	Horses.	Ponies.	Donkeys.	Sheep and goats.	Pigs.	Carts.	Ploughs.	Boats.	REMARKS
Sylhet	400.000	14	1,800	.....	60,000	20,000	24	222,000	140,000	This return is based on supposition only.
Cachar	100,000	20	1,200	.....	10,000	600	... .	30,000	1,250	
Goálpára	291,000	50	645	50	75,000	19,000	100	91,500	5,700	
Kámrúp	254,940	170	1,220	3	28,250	33,450	32	79,538	6,299	
Darrang	235,729	16	421	9	773	14,140	220	24,190	840	
Nowgong	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Sibságar	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.. ..	.....	.....	.....	
Lakhimpur*	50,000	200	300	.....	15,000	25,000	300	50,000	8,500	
Gáro Hills*	.....	.....	.....	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Khási Hills	35,258	20	170	.....	10,219	12,388	20	2,115	50	
Naga Hills*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	

* The Deputy Commissioners have reported their returns blank, as no establishments were ever sanctioned to collect these statistics.